

# The People.

**ASPINALL'S ENAMEL.**

**A**SPINALL'S ENAMEL  
Treasures of former days, and bygone fame,  
Which seemed, to all appearance, past reclaim,  
I've rescued from that den of dust and gloom,  
That great perplexity—the lumber-room.  
And now, they glow and glisten, side by side  
With sister arts, in all their former pride.  
There is a charm, a brightness spread o'er all,  
By the presiding genius, ASPINALL.

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**ASPINALL'S ENAMEL WORKS**  
**PECKHAM, LONDON.**

**A**SPINALL'S ENAMEL, ASPINALL'S ENAMEL

**THIRD EDITION.**  
"THE PEOPLE" OFFICE,  
Saturday Evening.

**THE BLACK MOUNTAIN FORCE.**  
Movements of the Columns.

**THE EMPEROR WILLIAM'S DEPARTURE  
FROM ROME.**

LATER.—The Emperor William took leave of the Queen and the Princesses after luncheon today. At a quarter to three his Majesty left the Quirinal, accompanied by the King, the Prince of Naples, the Dukes of Aosta and Genoa, and their suites. In the Royal waiting-room at the railway station the Emperor and the King took leave of each other with the greatest cordiality. The Emperor also embraced the Prince of Naples and the Dukes of Aosta and Genoa. The King accompanied his Majesty to the Imperial carriage, remaining in conversation with him until the train started. The route from the Quirinal to the station was lined with troops, who presented arms as the cortege passed. The military bands played the German national anthem. There was a large number of spectators, who gave the departing Emperor a farewell ovation. On returning from the station to the Quirinal, the King was enthusiastically welcomed by his household.

**THE BOARD OF WORKS AND  
WORKMEN'S DWELLINGS.**

## THE COAL AND WINE DUES.

### FOURTEEN YEARS' PENAL SERVITUDE

the prosecutor communicated with the police, and Detectives Barratt and Garnar kept observation

**THE CANONBURY MURDER,**  
Committal of the Prisoner,  
Extraordinary Evidence.

### I Should Get Hung

### Dreaming of the Murder.

Never mind what he said.—Witness further said it was the night before she heard him talk

**MR. PARNELL AND THE "TIMES."**

**THE EAST-END NUTILATIONS.**  
The Mysterious Parcel.  
Not a Practical Joke.

### A Curious Incident.

## The Bermondsey Story.

**The Belfast Arrest.**  
At Belfast on Friday John Foster was charged

**"Jack the Ripper" at Islington.**

## STRANGE DISCOVERY AT PECKHAM

**A WOMAN KILLED IN KENNINGTON**

**MORE FIRES IN LONDON.**  
Exciting Scenes--Narrow Escapes.  
Early on Friday morning a fire broke out in the

**Scene in Whitechapel.**  
An alarming fire broke out at ten o'clock on

### A Blaze in the City.

The cause is unknown.

**THE BRADLAUGH FUND.**

**BALDWIN'S TWO MILES DROP.**  
Professor Baldwin, for the second time in this

## THE CRISIS IN THE COAL TRADE.

On Friday night the officials of the Yorkshire Miners' Association issued a manifesto, addressed

**ALLEGED EXTENSIVE DIAMOND**

## GALLANT CAPTURE OF A SLAVE

**DHOW.**

**PRINCE ALBERT VICTOR AT MAN-**

### DEATH OF A THEATRICAL MANAGER.

## THE CHARGE AGAINST MITCHELL,

**THE PUGILIST.**  
At the West Sussex Sessions, at Chichester, on

### SUICIDE OF A CLERGYMAN.

An inquest was held at Aston, Birmingham, on Friday, on the body of the Rev. Henry Harris, of Oakwood Parsonage, Port Talbot, Glamorganshire. The deceased, who had been suffering from insomnia, was on a visit to his brother-in-law at Aston, and on Wednesday night last he was missing. His dead body was found in a foot and a half of water in Aston Brook. A piece of rope with a noose at one end and a table knife were found on the body. A verdict of suicide was returned, but the deceased was temporarily insane.







**Journal of Management Education**



## OUR OMNIBUS.

## THE M.P.

The Gladstone wire-pullers are wise in their generation. Mr. Schuchardt frowns at the proposal to renew the Trafalgar-square riots. Hence the collapse of the intended demonstration. It got whispered about that Mr. Gladstone would be mightily displeased by anything of the sort, and the Radical clubs grew as cold as they had previously been hot, much to the disappointment of the pickpockets. They had anticipated a rich harvest from a campaign in defence of "the right of public meeting" and public filching.

If the Unionists are to win the seat about to be vacated at Dewsbury by Sir J. Simon, they will need an exceptionally strong candidate. At the last election the Gladstones carried their man by a majority of nearly two to one, but at that time the Unionists had a somewhat weak representative. The poll showed, however, a very large falling off on both sides compared with the previous election, when the aggregate was nearly 2,000 more votes. There is room, consequently, for largely reducing the majority, even if winning the seat be impracticable.

Rather unpleasant stories—possibly over-coloured—come to me from North Kensington. It is alleged that the Gladstones are gaining ground steadily in this important constituency, entirely through Unionist apathy. Mr. Swann-Shield, the indefatigable secretary of the local Conservative Association, has resigned—not without abundant cause—and there are other circumstances which demonstrate the urgent necessity of a vigorous rally all along the line. Sir Roper Lethbridge had better look to it at once, or he may chance to find his seat slipping from under him.

The way in which the Midland Separatists are endeavouring to convert Mr. Gladstone into a sort of political sandwich-man is truly amusing. Regardless of his age, regardless of the weather, regardless of everything but getting up a big "boom," they implore him to go touring about in their wilds for the good of "the cause." They do not ask for a speech; the sight of the tip of his august nose would suffice "to light a beacon fire." It might, if it resembled Ally Sloper's, but as it does not, I would suggest that a stuffed image of the venerable statesman would do just as well for advertising purposes. The Tansands would, no doubt, turn up a number required to be sent round with the Home Rule vans.

I remember well how it used to be a common word among Conservative members that no good could result from starting a weekly Conservative newspaper; the working classes, it was confidently asserted, would not read a Tory journal. Thanks to the People, we do not hear that idle chatter nowadays. Although the paper completed the seventh year of its life last Monday, it has become a great political power in the land, with an ever-growing circulation which already covers most parts of the kingdom. And who are its readers? The vast majority, workpeople. It finds its way among other classes, even to the highest, but its chief patrons belong to the proletariat.

The Aberdeen Separatists are setting their faces against the presentation of the freedom of their city to Mr. Goebien. Well, what next, I wonder. Do not these factious Aberdeenians see that the honour would be their far more than Mr. Goebien's? A man of his eminence can afford to dispense with the approval of a clique of town-folk, but even much more important cities than Aberdeen might feel glad to enroll the Chancellor of the Exchequer among their citizens.

Sir Wilfrid Lawson compares Lord Salisbury to King Pharaoh, and Mr. Gladstone to Moses, shouting, "Let the people go free." And what happened after the children of Israel had got free? They wandered in the wilderness for forty years, and a near chance of being starved to death, and came to idolatry. I suspect that many of them felt inclined to apostatize from Moses before their sufferings ended.

The visit of the German Emperor to Rome has left the Papacy in precisely the same position as before. Kaiser William II. visited the "prisoner of the Vatican," as it is duty bound, and no doubt found him a pleasant old gentleman. But if the restoration of the temporal power of the Papacy must have suffered huge disappointment. His presence seems to show that he really did treasure some such expectation. As well might the representatives of the Grand Mogul hope to get back the government of Hindostan. The unity of Italy is established; it would need more than Papal teeth to crack that hard nut.

## WILLIAM OF CLOUDESLEE.

Backers at Croydon had a bad time of it, but bookmakers hardly had the turn they want so sorely, because betting was by no means brisk. The talent started well by laying odds on Wreath for the Maiden Hurdle Race, but went down in the Maiden Plate, for which the stable did not back Ravenswood. Shotaway almost gave the fielders a great turn in the Woodville Plate, but in one more stride he would have been Earning. Strathgry's backers had to thank a bad start, in which Abaddon did not get away, and Fred Barrett's riding for landing him in the Selling Nursery. Madcap, who took the Shirley Plate, was at 20 to 1; and the party did not back Ironclad, who won the Welter Plate. No mistake was made, however, with Guy Blanning in the Farm Handicap.

On Wednesday the Duke of Richmond, once a crack two-year-old, landed the October Hurdle Race. Lord Cardigan, who was a 6 to 4 favourite in London, but went in the ring from 5 to 2 to 10 to 1, ran right away with the Wickham Handicap; as did Achon, another dreadful outsider, with the Croydon October Nursery. Prince's formerly lucky stable managed to score with Cornelia in the Mile Selling Plate; and Nimensis, the hottest favourite of the day, landed the Two-Year-Old Plate. This colt was worth twice the 350 guineas for which he was sold after the race. Wanderer, who won the Welter Handicap very easily, and Castilian, were practically the only two in that race whose running need be noticed.

During Wednesday morning news reached us at Woodside that Gallinule and Acme had been tried with Cotillon and Theodore. Cotillon's chance for the Cambridgehire was quite extinguished, and though Acme beat Gallinule by a head, too much importance must not be attached to the spin, because the pace was bad. Tenenreuse has returned from France, and will be a warm favourite, though she will be asked to do a big thing to beat Manassah. Bismarck keeps his place, despite the rumours of what others can do. I shall probably make Bismarck, Tenenreuse, and Mania my final selections. It is impossible to leave out Mania, at any rate.

Nene Wallis, of Birmingham, and W. Willis, of Bloomsbury, two st. lads, fought with the bare knuckles on Monday, in a room of Regent-street. Willis injured his left hand in the fourth round, but the contest, in which he was quickly beaten, was allowed to last over an hour and a half. In round after round Willis was patted in the face, but with only one hand worth anything had no chance whatever of winning.

Alec Roberts and Jim Hayes were let down very lightly by Lord Brabourne and the Canterbury magistrates on Tuesday. They were merely bound over in £20 to keep the peace for six months, rather different treatment from that which Wallis and Willis may expect if evidence against them is procurable.

Jacob Hyams, generally known as Jacobs, who fought Jim Carney, sailed for America on Wednesday to fight M'Auliffe, who made a draw with

Carney. Bobbitt and Bill Goode have not yet come to terms for their boxing match. J. L. Sullivan is out about, but on crutches, and while in that condition talks seriously of being the unknown for whom articles were signed in Canada to fight Jake Kilrain for the championship. The Professional Boxing Association's benefit on Wednesday was a great success.

After all Nuttall has turned professional, so that the note to the effect that he intended taking that step was right enough. His father was my authority for withdrawing the statement, and in face of his contradiction I could but give way, though I had my doubts.

S. D. Muttibury has consented to accept the presidency of the C.U.B.C. once more. He has always worked very hard for his college and University, and is certainly the right man in the right place.

O'Connor and Teemer are at last matched to scull for the championship of America. The race is to come off at Washington on November 10th. Quite late enough in the season.

The Canadian football team, who started their Southern tour with a match against the Swifts on the 15th inst., and made a draw with them, met Oxford University's Association team on Wednesday. In this, as in the other engagement, the Canadians were somewhat lucky. Their opponents appeared the smarter team, but still the scores were equal.

Very damaging accounts of the American cyclists' method of organizing races are to hand from Boston. Rowe and Temple recently decided a series of matches. Rowe won at five miles and one mile, and was thereby supposed to gain the championship of America.

Now it is stated that this affair, like most of the races organized by Senator Morgan in England, was simply arranged beforehand. Morgan does not deny that this was a put-up job, but is indignant that he and his man Temple were sold. Rowe agreed to win the first match and let Temple beat him in the second. The third was to be adjudged a dead heat. As it happened, Rowe won the five miles race and the shorter trial also. His friends and Temple's friends had betted heavily on the result, and have gone broke.

A great array of celebrities has been engaged for the six days' go-as-you-please contest at New York. The English division will include Charley Bowell, George Littlewood, George Hasell, W. A. Sinclair, Corbett, &c. All the best of the Americans are preparing to do their best to defeat our people. Bowell has been looking out for this event for some time, as he is eager to once more win the long distance championship, if he can.

We expected that a race of this sort would have been got up for London prior to the departure of Bowell and Co., but there were, I believe, difficulties as to getting the Agricultural Hall for suitable dates, and the project has been deferred till the contingent returns from the States, when, perhaps, one or two of the best Americans may compete.

The road-scullers' race which took place at Madison-square Gardens, New York, where the six days' pedestrian race is to be held, will come off, we are told, on Wednesday. Wallace Ross was second, 462 miles; Fred Plasted, third, 455 miles. Mackay, Gaudaur's partner in double-sculling came next; then Buebar, Hamm, Conley, Lee, Lagan, and East. Teemer and O'Connor were to have raced twenty-five miles on the last day, but got into a fight instead. According to this, their championship sculling race at Washington may be a very lively affair. They have hated each other very cordially for a long while.

George Lohmann has, after all, decided not to go to the Cape of Good Hope with the team of cricketers, and his place in the eleven will be taken by Wood, the Surrey wicket-keeper, a very excellent all-round man.

General satisfaction is felt in Sussex at Lord Sheffield's step in getting up the football match between the Maoris and Middlesex County. Though admission to Sheffield Park is to be by ticket only for this occasion, it is hoped that later his lordship may return to his former custom of organising big cricket matches, and throwing the field open for the public.

I hear complaints that the Maoris are not playing in style likely to lead to the promotion of good fellowship for the season. They certainly take bigger risks in some of their work than our people care about running, and are at times unnecessarily rough. The latter practice will have to be corrected, or we shall find a serious difficulty arising when they get up in Lancashire and Yorkshire.

## OLD IZAAK.

On Sunday morning last I found myself—one of a large number of anglers—on the platform of Liverpool-street Station. There were young and old, short and tall, stout and thin anglers, representing all sorts and conditions of men, but all alike, inasmuch as they carried the rods and tackle boxes that proclaimed the pleasurable nature of the undertaking on which they were bent, which was none other than to be conveyed cheaply and quickly by the iron horses of the Great Eastern Railway to some quiet and favourite swim on the banks of the Lea—perhaps in the neighbourhood of Broxbourne, St. Margaret's, or the Rye House—there to spend a few quiet hours in fishing amidst the green fields, far away from the smoke, dust, and noise of London.

The object I had in view in being there was in response to a very kind and cordial invitation to visit the Clapton Angling Society, not in their club-room, but on the banks of the Copper Mill Stream, a tributary of the Lea, which is strictly preserved for the use of the members of that society, and I venture to state that there are but very few other angling societies in London the membership of which carries with it the right of fishing in such a convenient and well-stocked piece of water. Although a tributary of a comparatively small and narrow river, it runs very deep in some places, and is the home of a good stock of roach, pike, and perch, perhaps driven there by the pollution of the main stream.

To have the right of fishing on such a preserve would ensure the success of any angling society, even if it did not possess the exceptional advantage (like the C.A.S.) of having the onerous duties of honorary secretary performed by such a genial and thoroughly practical angler as Mr. Henry Howse. I have always held and expressed the opinion that the first reason and ambition of an angling society should be to own stock, and preserve a stretch of water for the exclusive use of the members, and think that the atmosphere on the reed-lined banks is much more healthy, both mentally and physically, than that of a club-room, where, amidst the fumes of tobacco and whiskey—both very good things in their proper place—the details of a prize list are discussed with all the greed and jealousy inborn in human nature, or where the arrangement of dinners and smoking concerts form the sole topic of conversation.

As showing how thoroughly practical the secretary of the Clapton Angling Society is, I may mention a little idea of his which I saw carried into effect on Sunday. It often happens that when two or three anglers go off-fishing together they have their live bait in a single can, which, of course, cannot be under the nose of more than one of them, and therefore the necessity of carrying the required bait in the hand, a process which certainly does not improve its liveliness, is frequently entailed on whoever may happen to be fishing at any distance away from the place where the can is.

Mr. Howse has a small waterproof bag, about six inches deep and four

inches wide, when it is filled with water, the live bait can be put, and carried with comparative comfort.

The most disheartening drawback and difficulty with which those who are striving to cultivate and protect the fishing in the Lea have to contend is the fearful pollution of the river, proceeding principally from the sewage works at Tottenham. At times it is almost impossible, and certainly unsafe, to walk along the bank, owing to a stench rising from the water, which flows over a bottom coated with an evil-smelling substance, from which the bubbles of sewage gas may be seen to rise in company with thousands of dead and dying fish. I shall deal with this unsavoury, but very important subject, at greater length next week, and tell the tale of a sanitary inspector who was sent down to inspect.

I am very much obliged to a Hampshire correspondent for sending the result of a remarkable day's sport which a friend of his has recently enjoyed on the Test. He took one salmon weighing 14lbs., nine brook trout, and four good sized pike. I do not think there is another instance on record where an angler has taken a salmon, a grayling, and a pike on one day. Also to Mr. Pryor, of Lewes, who kindly informs me that a pike, weighing 24lbs., was caught with live bait in the Ouse, at Hamey, by Mr. Ford, on the 11th inst. Beside these takes, that of Messrs. Perkins and Gaunt, two members of the Richmond Piscatorial Society, is worthy of record. These two gentlemen, fishing with Spots, in Twickenham Deep, last week, took in one day 57lbs. weight of roach and dace.

Of course, the latter achievement, performed once in a season, but never twice, comes as a boon and a blessing to the secretary of the Thames Angling Preservation Society, who blows his own particular trumpet loudly in a contemporary, and informs us that "this magnificent take, possessing such unquestionable authenticity, is undoubted proof of the immense quantity of fish in the river." It will not do, Mr. Bromham, and any number of long words—*even* were they uttered with the eloquence of Demosthenes himself—could not prove the above statement to be correct. The explanation of the truly magnificent take is that both anglers are exceptionally skilful, and that they were particularly fortunate in choosing their swim, for there were other punts near them all day the occupants of which hardly took a fish.

There is, perhaps, no other great railway company which is so ready to grant concessions to anglers and provide for their comfort and convenience as the Great Eastern, and I am led by the fact, and by numerous requests which have been made to me, to ask that the advantage of having anglers' tickets issued at reduced fares may be extended to Cambridge, so that the Cam may be more easily reached. I can assure the powers that be that this concession would be appreciated by many who cannot often afford the journey at the present rate.

Messrs. Norman and Gardiner, of the Gresham Angling Society, on Saturday last caught 57lbs. of large pike from private waters in Sussex.

## BUCKLAND, JUNIOR.

A very valuable piece of information connected with hydrophobia comes to me from Natal, South Africa. The writer, Mr. Charles Simons, of the Natal Mount of Grace, in reply to a query I responded some two months ago, that although he has been settled in South Africa for many years, he has never heard of a single case of hydrophobia. He also made inquiries among older colonists, but they, too, declared their inability to recollect a single instance. Of course this evidence is not conclusive, but it certainly demonstrates that even if the terrible disease exists at all it must be extremely rare. There are plenty of dogs among the settlers, and we may make sure that in such a purely pastoral country any outbreak of rabies would make a great stir.

Mr. Simons attributes this immunity to a very singular cause. The colonists discovered many years ago, he states, that unless the tongue is extracted, it will be sure to die of distemper. This operation is always performed, therefore, at an early age, the Kalbs being very skilful in getting the sinew out without causing much pain. My obliging correspondent theorises that in some way or other it is this precaution against distemper which safeguards the canine life in South Africa from hydrophobia. Whether that be the case or not, no harm could come from trying the experiment in England. I am greatly indebted to Mr. Simons for taking the trouble to write at such length, and trust he will favour me and my readers with other bits from time to time.

A North country paper of large circulation has started a novel organisation with the object of obtaining human friendship and protection for birds. It is called the "Bickled Bird Society," the membership being free to boys and girls, or their being a certain price. This society binds them to be kind to all living things, to protect them to the utmost of their power, to feed the birds in winter time, and never to take a nest. A most praiseworthy endeavour; I heartily wish that every town and village in the kingdom had its "Bickled Bird Society."

Fired by a spirit of emulation, my lads are training an Irish terrier to rival the tracking feats of Burgho and Herby. The dog has been very keen now, and will always run the trail of a hare, however devious might be the course along which it was dragged. Now, however, he is promoted to running the trail of a rat, and his success already almost equals that with the defunct rat. The next step in education is to be my means of raw meat, and after that he will be advanced to the sixth form—the blood test.

I was really very sorry to be unable to attend the annual exhibition of the South London Entomological and Natural History Society, as I intended to do, but I am always very busy, and could not possibly find time. The chief object of this society is a very useful one, viz., the popularisation of natural history—and it seems to have succeeded, about 2,000 people visiting the exhibition on one night alone, last year.

"Hulwidgeon" kindly corrects a statement which I made in my issue of the 7th, in which I expressed an opinion that the pyrethrum was free from garden pests. My correspondent was of the same opinion until on cutting open one of the plants discovered in the heart of it a colony of nine or ten aphides, including a winged specimen. "Hulwidgeon" put them under a glass with some of the pyrethrum, and was surprised to find that they, as well as some book-keepers with them, were feeding on the plant. On microscopic examination of a leaf of a wild dark pyrethrum, marks of an insect's biting mandibles were found on it. The only plant which my correspondent has found free from insects is tobacco. I am much obliged to "Hulwidgeon" for thus correcting my examination of the plant was only superficial.

The same gentleman wishes to know how to get rid of book-keepers. Perhaps some of my correspondents can suggest a way?

With reference to the pluck and viciousness of skate and weasels, Mr. Cannon has furnished us with an interesting note. Some years ago, while foraging in the vicinity of Colney, Herts, my correspondent, finding the dogs standing at a hole in a sandy bank, introduced a white bitch ferret, with the result that she was driven out almost instantly, and the back to severely that almost immediate death ensued. On investigation, a female stoat and five young ones were found in the hole.

Stoats and weasels are always more ferocious

when they have a family of young to look after, and they can hardly be blamed for it. I have always had a smothering affection for these animals, although they are such enemies of gamekeepers. They are very cunning, and, indeed, they need to be sharp, as every man's hand is against them.

## THE ACTOR.

The event of the theatrical week has been, of course, the re-opening of the St. James's Theatre. Mr. Barrington had, naturally, a very good "house," which included some well-known people—such as Lord Lansdowne, in one box, Miss Emily Faithfull, in another, and, in the stalls, Captain Shaw, Mr. Bernard Moore, Miss Emma Broughton, Mrs. Hare, Mr. Alfred Collier, and so on. Altogether, the audience was not, perhaps, so "brilliant" as has been usual at St. James's "first nights," but it was "representative" enough.

There was more than one amusing incident during the performance—such as Mr. Barrington's sitting down upon a lady's work-basket, saying the while (in the character of the Deaf) "Things appear to me very unsettled." The biggest laugh of the evening was secured by Miss Emily Faithfull, in another, and, in the stalls, Captain Shaw, Mr. Bernard Moore, Miss Emma Broughton, Mrs. Hare, Mr. Alfred Collier, and so on. The reference to divorced ladies going on the stage, already recorded in the D. T., was also received with hearty laughter.

Talking of the D.T., I am reminded of the hostile reception given by the pit to the dramatic critic of that paper at the close of the performance. That was bad enough, but still worse was the conduct of those pitteers who waited for the critic in the street, and (so I am told) hustled and jeered him. One may not sympathise with Mr. Scott's over-querulous comments on the behaviour of audiences, but playgoers who feel aggrieved at that matter should adopt some more legitimate plan of displaying their feeling than they adopted on the occasion I refer to.

Everybody is talking of the sudden spring which Miss Olga Netherole has made into the favour of the public. I may say that it does not surprise me in the least. In this very column I have drawn attention before now to her very promising performance in the past. I am told she has been only a year and nine months on the stage. She played in the country with the "Harvest" company, and with Mr. and Mrs. Deane, with whom she appeared at the Grand. She was also seen at a matinee at the Strand, and in "The Union Jack" at the Adelphi.

Did Mlle. Camille D'Arville and Miss Josephine Findlay, the belles of "Carina" at the Opera Comique, know, on Tuesday, that they had a disagreeable prima donna listening to them? Certainly it is that in one of the stage boxes was Madame Marie Rose, accompanied by her husband, Colonel Henry Mapleson. Madame Woolf, the composer, was also in the audience. On this occasion Miss Ada Doris was ill, and her place was taken, very creditably, by Miss Isabel Gray.

The new ditties in "Carina" are not the work of the gentlemen who figure on the programme as authors of the libretto. They are "by another hand"—a fact which, I think, ought to be stated. Messrs. Blanchard and Hildgeman would never, I am sure, have approved of the song which was collected—it is so out of keeping with the general tone of the piece. Mr. Bridgman's first night speech, which has been so unfairly misrepresented, showed how heartily he and Mr. Blanchard had worked together.

I hear that Dr. Dobbs, the author of "Black mail," has other dramas ready for production—pieces written subsequently to the composition of the piece which was seen at the Criterion on Wednesday. Among those present at the Criterion performance were Miss Gertrude Ward, Mr. W. H. Vernon, Miss Marie Tempest, Miss Agnes Hewitt, and many other leading members of the profession. The song supposed to be sung by the heroine (behind the scenes) in the first act, was undertaken by Miss Amy Angarde (of the "Dorothy" company), who was eminently successful with it, and heartily applauded.

The laying of the memorial-stone of the new Tivoli concert hall was quite a function. A number of well-known people attended, crossing the Strand after tea to the Adelphi Restaurant, where Mr. H. J. Leslie, who had done the "laying," after lunch, a series of genial speech. Among the other speakers was Mr. John Hollingshead, who aroused hearty laughter by his Biblical adaptation, when, alluding to Mr. Leslie, he said, "We are told that he who is without blame among us shall lay the first stone."

Playgoers may be interested to know that Miss Helen Ferrers, who plays so promisingly in "The Two Orphans" at the Olympic, is a sister of Miss Fortescue, who was among those present at the revival of the piece on Thursday week.

I hear that the new Gaiety burlesque is "shaping" excellently. Miss Fanny Robina is, perhaps, rather a slight Fra Diavol (physically) by the side of Miss Florence St. John's plump Margaret, but that is a detail. Look out for a joke about Miss St. John being "not burning, only singing." It is bound to come off. By the way, that old Gaiety "hand," Mr. Alfred Balfour, is to play Caderousse in "Monte Cristo," at New York, and leaves Liverpool, with other Gaiety people, on the 24th.

"Hands Across the Sea" is produced at the Princess's. Miss Mary Rorke will play the heroine, and the cast will also include Mr. Abingdon, Mr. Roo, and Mr. Garden. There is no part, unfortunately, for clever Miss Cicely Richards.

## JACK ALLROUND.

"Plumstead" objects to pay "1s. for a spoonful of marking ink," and asks whether "any dye will answer the purpose," or, if not, "can you give me a recipe, the more simple the better?" An ordinary dye will not answer. The following is the simplest recipe I know of, and has the advantage of needing no previous preparation of the linen. Take half an ounce nitrate of silver, and half an ounce pure nitrate of potassa, rub the two together in a glass or stoneware mortar; after working them for a time add two ounces liquor of ammonia. When solution is complete three drachms of white sugar, two drachms of archil, and five drachms powdered gum arabic are to be added and dissolved in the liquid, and when that is accomplished add enough water to bring the whole up to three fluid ounces. Then bottle for use.

"I have a fair quantity of out-door grapes which will not ripen, kindly give me a recipe for making grape wine," writes "W. C." The grapes are best before they are full ripe; put them, stalks and fruit, into a clean tub, and bruise them until every berry is broken, and to every pound of fruit add a quart of cold water. Leave them for three days, stirring them two or three times every day. Strain, and to every gallon of liquid add three and a half pounds of lump sugar. When this is thoroughly melted, put the wine at once into the cask, which, it is important, should be kept full to the bung, as the froth, when the liquor is working, should escape and flow out; to secure this it is well to reserve, say half a gallon, to keep filling up your cask as the fermentation lessens. In ten days add the proportion of one pint brandy and a quarter of an ounce of isinglass to every five gallons of wine. Bung closely and keep in a cool cellar, and next summer bottle in champagne bottles and wire down the corks.

"The varnish has come off a fender; can you tell me the best kind to use for it?" As my correspondent, "W. M.," does not tell me what kind of fender it is, I must assume it to be one of the ordinary black description. If so, I can tell of a whole series of such fenders in a household presenting a rusty and very shabby appearance that were transformed and looked like new when

painted over with Brunswick black, which can be got at any general grocer's for a few pence per pot.

I am much obliged to "S. L. L.," who writes, in answer to "E. W. C.," to say, "I have used paraffin oil for washing and boiling my clothes for several months with great success. I do not find it rots the clothes, but makes them clean and white with half the labour."

"W. F. M." has got the skin of an albatross, and wishes to know how to cure it. He omits to say what condition the skin is in. If it is not fresh, but has been recently taken off, and the flesh or fatty bits liable to remain after skinning well removed, a thorough application of arsenical soap into every spot and crevice of the inside will be sufficient.

In reply to Frances C., red or black ink stains are often difficult to get rid of if left too long, but if mild soap is applied instantly the ink is easily removed. Old ink stains may be treated as follows:—Have a basin or jug nearly full of boiling water, dip the stained spot into the water and stretch the fabric over the top of the basin, then take a very little pinch of powdered oxalic acid and sprinkle it on the stain, rub it in a little and the ink will soon vanish. Then wash out the acid. This is for white cotton or linen.

For the coloured cotton or woolen articles my correspondent is anxious to free from ink spots, I have heard the following highly recommended. Let a drop from a burning tallow candle fall on the stain, which should then be washed out with a concentrated solution of pyrophosphate of soda.

"J. J." asks how to make muffins like those sold in the streets. The ingredients are simple enough, but domestic cooks will tell you there is nothing more difficult than to make a muffin at home such as you can buy for a penny in the streets. Muffins should be baked on an iron plate hot in an oven. To one peck of flour add three-quarters of a pint of stout, four small eggs, four ounces of salt and water or milk, lightly warmed, sufficient to form the dough of rather soft consistency. Set the dough when mixed in a pan in a warm place to rise, then take small portions of the dough formed by the hands into muffin shape and put them into holes made in a layer of flour about two inches thick placed on a board. Cover up with a blanket and place near the fire, to cause the muffins in this stage to rise in semi-globular form, then carefully slip each on to the heated iron plate and bake; when the bottom begins to slightly brown, turn and bake opposite side.

## GENERAL CHATTER.

The controversy between Sir Morell Mackenzie and the German doctors seems to me a case of the pot and the kettle. These distinguished scientists ballyrag one another with all the fervour of Billingsgate fish-fags, or of Irish agitators when engaged in the congenial task of "baiting Halfour." For shame, gentlemen, for shame! Does it never occur to you that you present a most miserable spectacle to Christendom with your abusive wrangling over a dead man? The poor Emperor! What mental sufferings must have been his during the last month or two of his life, from the knowledge that the medical experts in attendance were squabbling like so many old women over a game of cards.

The Black Mountaineers are evidently of opinion that "there is nothing like leather." They even make their field artillery of that material, it being stated that out of the eight guns brought to operate on our troops seven were leather. This is decidedly singular. The Japanese, used, I believe, to make ordnance out of compressed wood, which the Chinese employed hardened wood ringed round with iron for the purpose. But I never before heard of leathern field-pieces.

What stupendous nonsense clever Frenchmen can talk when they set their minds to it. At the unveiling of the Shakespeare statue at Paris, M. Barlot proclaimed that "by this statue England shakes hands with France." Not to be beaten by this flight of imagination, another orator proceeded to assure the assembly that "we have made him ours," he sonorously declaimed, "by the case and the intelligence with which we interpret him." It is a funny idea, that of the immortal bard Gallicised.

Africans have strange tastes. They love to feast on caterpillars and maggots, nor will they turn away from a repast of decomposed rhinoceros. But I should have imagined that they would have drawn the line sharply at German sauerkraut. We English find the Teuton hard to digest even in a metaphorical sense; he would not find a single British tooth to go near him. But the sweet savages on the Zanzibar coast are evidently less dainty. Having captured some deer from a German gunboat, they slew the unfortunate tars and gobbled them up to the last button. People who could do this would eat Old Nick or Bismarck himself.

Might I venture to suggest to Sir Charles Warren the expediency of keeping free from obstruction the pavements in front of popular theatres? I do not speak of those waiting for admission; that is a slight and brief inconvenience. But long after the doors are opened idlers form across the pavement in two lines for the purpose of seeing the "swells" enter, and one often has great difficulty in pushing through. Nor is it inconceivable that some of these loafers may have light fingers. "Move on" should be the order of the night, especially in crowded thoroughfares.

Model lodging-houses for the very poor; will not some Peabody arise to bring them into existence? I mean places where necessitous people could find decent lodging for a single night, as they do at present at the common lodging-houses, with the decency omitted. It would be necessary, however, for obvious reasons, to make it an inflexible rule that the sexes should be separated, whether married or not. There would be little hardship in that; at the common lodging-houses the charge for two occupying the same bed is always twice that for a single lodger. Apart from this, the code of regulations should be as elastic as possible. Otherwise, the model houses would stand a good chance of remaining untenanted.

Restaurant keeping must be profitable business, judging from the constant multiplication of these places of entertainment "for man and beast." Nor is the increase of their numbers the only sign of prosperity; I notice that many of the older ones find their existing premises too small. The Monaco is one of these expanding concerns; it has grown by degrees from quite a small place to one of the biggest at the West-end. The new Troi in the Strand also promises to be a monster, and we make sure, will endeavour to outdo its rival opposite in sumptuousness and decoration. Curious to think of, that not very many years have elapsed since the time when Londoners were content to take their meals in greasy horse-boxes, and to pay much higher prices than are charged at palatial restaurants.

A young lady whom I know is engaged to be married to an elderly widower whose eldest daughter about equals her in age. She is in great perplexity how to call this inconvenient "my daughter." If she speaks of the girl as "my daughter," people will be sure to set her down as twice her real age. And she calls her "mamma," or "mamma," by the young person. I suggested that the difficulty might be got over by her addressing one another by their baptismal names, but that, I was assured, would be "undignified."

"Jack the Ripper" having entirely failed to carry out his murderous undertaking, let him be known for the future as "Jack the Liar." The only thing he ever ripe is the truth; he certainly mutilates that awful.







## THEATRICAL INTELLIGENCE.

Playgoers desirous of knowing the results of a sound critical judgment upon the actors who most moved their fathers including Maccabees, Philip, Helen, Faust (L. J. Martin), Charles, Joan, and the older, Parnell, may be advised to read the theatrical reminiscences of Dr. Westland Marston, just published. "Atalanta" is the title of the sporting classical burlesque with which Mr. Hawtry will initiate his management of the Strand. Mr. Irving on Wednesday laid the foundation-stone of the new Bolton Theatre, erected on the site of the former playhouse, fired by an incendiary last January. Mr. H. A. Jones, it is said, is writing a play for Mr. Mansfield, to be first produced in London, should the American actor be able to secure another theatre after his tenure of the Lyceum. "John Bull Abroad," the title of Mr. Conroy Grain's new musical sketch at St. George's Hall, cleverly satirizes the peculiarities of British tourists on the continent. Since Monday Miss Florence West, at the Princess's, has been playing the heroine, and Mr. Glenny the fireman here in "The Still Alarm," which is to be replaced at the beginning of November by Mr. H. Pettit's drama, "Hands Across the Sea." A benefit performance is being organized for Mr. Henry Bracy at the Savoy, for Wednesday afternoon, the 24th inst., as a farewell testimonial, prior to his departure for Australia. An Englishman named Knighton, having presented a statue of Shakespeare to Paris, the president of the Municipal Council, M. Darlot, in acknowledging the gift, trusted that a Frenchman would be found to reciprocate by offering a statue of Molière to London. Miss Mary Anderson returns to her own country in the Umbria, which leaves Liverpool on the 5th inst. Mr. Frohmann, of the New York Theatre, is arranging the forthcoming international tour through the States of Mr. and Mrs. Kendal. The review of the week at the Surrey, the Marlborough, and the Elephant and Castle Theatres will be "South," "The Golden Ladder," and "Monte Cristo," respectively. In the new spectacular ballet in preparation at the Alhambra, one of the scenes will be a stirring seascape on a grand scale, with mechanical effects of an entirely original kind. It is proposed to set up a testimonial to Mr. Hume, one of the traffic superintendents of the London and North-Western Railway, as an acknowledgment of his courtesy towards theatrical companies in the transport of luggage, and in expediting their trains. When the Holborn Amphitheatre is re-opened as the Central Hall, it is proposed to conduct it on somewhat similar principles as those of the Agricultural Hall, Islington. Mr. G. Young has purchased the Trevor Music Hall from Mr. A. Reeve, and the transfer was fixed for Thursday night, the occasion to furnish an opportunity for presenting a testimonial to Mr. Reeve. Eating broken glass is the new sensational feat said to be shortly exhibited on the music hall stage. If the glass used is of the "toughened" kind, the swallowing of the granules will do no more harm to the palate than would the grains of dry barley or wheat. Their digestion is another matter.

## THE OXFORD.

Two weeks ago, Mr. J. H. Jennings, by way of celebrating the twenty-eighth anniversary of the opening of the Oxford, produced an entire new programme, which is now to be seen at its best. The Jackies perform remarkable acrobatic feats, one of them alighting on the shoulders of his partner, after turning a somersault from a pyramid of tables, 25ft. high. The Lupino troupe extract a deal of amusement from a sketch entitled "Robinson Crusoe," the dialogue of which is interspersed with capital singing and dancing. After concluding a humorous duet of the song-and-dance order, Mr. and Miss Brantford unite in imitating a series of musical instruments, from the banjo to a full brass band. A novel and laughable burlesque of a marionette dance is contributed by the Henderson and Stanley quartette, who also give an enjoyable selection on the banjo. Messrs. Arthur Corney, Harry Randall, and J. W. Hanson are three good comedians; the Sisters Bilton are capable duettists; and Messrs. Newhouse, Latimer, Young and Reeves, and the Sisters Collins, Miss L. Napier, and Mr. Peakes are all capable artists, and their several essays meet with deserved approbation. On Wednesday next a special entertainment will be given for the twentieth annual benefit of Mr. Jennings, to which several popular theatrical as well as musical hall artists will contribute.

## LONDON PAVILION.

The proprietors of this popular hall have during the past week introduced a new arrangement of seats into the hall which is calculated to add considerably to the comfort of their numerous patrons. The seats which formerly ran at right angles from the stage are now placed in semi-circular fashion on the more orthodox lines. Another great improvement at the establishment is the new foyer at the back of the first circle, which is now complete and superbly ornamented. So far as the programme goes, there is a capital company at the Pavilion just now. In addition to Buattier de Kolts, a clever conjurer, there are two troupes of really wonderfully trained cats and birds, and a host of humorous talent interpreted by such well-known artists as Miss Marie Lottus, Miss Katie Seymour, Miss Bessie Bonnell, Miss Addie Conyers, Mr. G. H. Macdonald, Mr. Dutch Daly, Mr. Harry Randall, the Brantfords, Dero, Leclercq, and Co., and several others. Mr. C. Fontaine's slack-wire performance continues to be a source of great attraction.

## CONCERT AT BRISTON.

The concert given at the Brixton Hall on Thursday night last by the committee of the Brixton Conservative Club proved to be an event of unusual interest, and attracted a large audience. The hall was tastefully decorated with plants and flowers, and the committee are to be congratulated upon the manner in which the whole of the arrangements were carried out. The programme was agreeably interspersed with songs, recitations, humorous sketches, organ and violin solos, &c., all of which were given in a creditable manner by the several artists. Miss Madeline Rowell recited "Sergeant Buzzard," and was much applauded; while Mr. E. H. Cozens caused considerable amusement by his rendering of several musical sketches. Miss Alice E. Cole was very happy in two violin solos, and Miss Annie Wilson sang with much power and pathos the song "Among the Passion Flowers." Mr. Wakefield recited with a cordial reception in Ascher's song, "Alice, Where art Thou?" Mr. F. G. Brooke gave two organ solos during the evening. The quartette party, which consisted of Messrs. Champion, Stevens, Garrett, and Wilton, sang four pieces. The only fault that could be found with these artists was that two of the pieces were merely adapted to their voices. The other two were sung with much precision, and were highly appreciated.

## ACCIDENTALLY SHOOTING A SWEETHEART.

The Scotch criminal authorities have intimated to the Procurator Fiscal for Ayrshire that no further proceedings are to be taken against David Boyd, the young man who was recently apprehended under suspicion of having with a revolver shot his sweetheart while out walking when on the Grattwick Moor. The girl received a very dangerous bullet wound. Boyd, who admitted having caused the wound, said it was an accident. The girl also gave the same version. Boyd has accordingly been liberated.

A large number of farmers and other persons assembled at Ballinglough, county Cork, on Thursday, and in a very threatening manner intercepted a number of gentlemen who were hunting in the locality. The hunters were compelled to relinquish their sport.

## THE "PECULIAR PEOPLE."

Mr. Wynne E. Baxter, coroner for South-East Middlesex, held an inquiry at the Poplar Town Hall, on Thursday, into the circumstances attending the death of Sidney William Goobey, aged 11 months, the son of parents living at 76, St. John's-street, Poplar, who died on the 12th inst. Elizabeth Goobey, mother of the deceased, stated that she belonged to a sect known as the "Peculiar People." The deceased was her child, and culled People. He died from birth, but during the past nine days it had been worse. It suffered from sickness, and latterly convulsions. During the last six hours of its life it was convulsed, but no doctor was called in, as she did not believe that any doctors could do good. The Coroner: You rely on the Lord to do everything, don't you?—The Witness: Yes, sir. I have had twelve children, and eight of them died before reaching the age of 3 years.—The Coroner: Would your religious prayers prevent you from giving the child a warm bath when it was convulsed?—The Witness: No, sir, we believe in warm water and fannels, and nothing else.—The Coroner: You won't believe that anything will do you good but the Lord?—The Witness: No, I have proved that the Lord heals us.—Elizabeth Bell, also a member of the same persuasion, deposed that they gave the child nourishment, but it died on Tuesday afternoon. She believed that the Lord could do all things, so prayed to him for the child.—A Juror: Your husband was hurt and was lying ill in bed, what would you do?—The Witness: I should send for a doctor.—The Coroner: But if you were in a ship with a hole in the bottom, would you do the same?—The Witness: Yes, we should trust in the Lord.—The Coroner: I am afraid you would be drowned.—Eliza Jarvis, another member, when asked what she had done for her child, said she went down on her knees and prayed on its behalf.—Mr. Russell Talbot, medical officer of health for Poplar, deposed that he had examined the child, and was of opinion that it had died of consumptive bowels, and that if medical aid had been procured its life would have been saved. He said this from personal experience, as he knew that thousands of such cases were cured by proper treatment.—After a lengthy inquiry, the jury returned a verdict in accordance with this evidence, and said it was useless censuring the mother, as these people's religious belief was so strong that nothing could change it.

## A HOUSEKEEPER LEAVES £70,000 TO HER MASTER.

The luck of the Nevilles, says a correspondent, was once in English history proverbial, and some said that it was the "King-maker" who broke the spell. It would almost seem as if a special share of fortune's smiles had been reserved for the ancient house of the Nevilles. The present Earl of Warwick, at any rate, has no cause of complaint. When his castle was burned a public subscription enabled him to restore it to its ancient magnificence; and now, to mitigate the trials of agricultural depression, his housekeeper dies and leaves her lord and master a legacy of £70,000, presumably the accumulated fees of visitors—American and English—to the castle.

## HOW PEOPLE ARE DECEIVED.

Agnes Johnson, 37, was charged at the Lambeth Police Court with begging from foot passengers at Brixton-road.—The prisoner was seen by a constable standing in the street, with two children, and declaring she did not know how to get them home to the Borough, as they were so tired, and she had no money. She repeated this statement in order to cause further sympathy, she was heard to tell the children to cry, and threatened what she would do if they did not. It was shown that the prisoner had been taken from her, three of whom were in schools, and one girl had been got into a comfortable situation.—Prisoner was committed for trial.

## THE PANAMA LOTTERY.

The second of the Panama Canal Company's drawings was held this week. At the first drawing many of the prizes fell to bonds not issued, whereupon the company resolved to have them drawn over again for the benefit of issued bonds, these last for the future to have the entire results of the drawing. The grand prize of half a million francs, originally devolving on an unissued number, was accordingly drawn over again, and was also a prize of 100,000fr. The hall was crowded, and the people eagerly pressed round the wheel of fortune through which the numbers of the bonds. One of the children present drew, first holding up his hands to show that they were empty, and then putting his finger into the wheel and drawing out a number, which was proclaimed aloud. It was curious to hear the plaudits which greeted the drawing of the large prizes, although they fell to nobody present, for the 500,000fr. prize was won by a tailor in the Avenue d'Antin, who was not there, while other winners live in the provinces. For a month Mr. de Lesseps and his son have been visiting the industrial and commercial centres, delivering addresses, taking part in banquets, organising committees, and endeavouring to create a national movement favourable to the realisation of this gigantic scheme. In all places where they have been speaking they have had crowded audiences, which have eagerly listened to them, and have shown sympathy with their efforts to make the completion of the Panama Canal a national question. Frenchmen feel that success in this work must avert a rebuff for the construction of the Suez Canal, who will continue to be styled "Le Grand Français" so long as the Panama Canal scheme is unfinished.

## THE AVERAGE PRICE OF WHEAT.

At the Northamptonshire Quarter Sessions on Thursday, application was made on behalf of the Duke of Grafton and the trustees of the Watley charity, Hartford, that the average price of wheat in the county of the Winchester bushel of wheat in accordance with the wording of the Act of 1828. The last application was made in 1873, when the price was fixed at 6s. 4d. Evidence having been given that according to the sealed certificate of the Board of Trade the average price per bushel for the last five years was 5s. 10d., the court fixed the rate, dividing the costs between the applicants and the tithe owners.

## THE ATTEMPT TO POISON A FAMILY.

At the Stratford Petty Sessions on Thursday, Frederick Bass, 35, a glider, of Charles-terrace, Higham Hill, Walthamstow, was brought up on remand, charged on his own confession with attempting to poison his wife Emma and his three children, Ada Emily, aged 10, Henry William, aged 9, and William Frederick John, aged 4, by administering to them a quantity of oxalic acid on the 10th inst., under circumstances reported in the People's last week.—On Thursday morning when the prisoner was brought up, the depositions of Inspector Hudson and Mrs. Bass were read over by Mr. Huddle, and the prisoner when the question was put to him said in each case that he had nothing to ask the witnesses.—Inspector Hudson having said there was no further evidence, Mr. E. B. Cook formally cautioned the prisoner, and added that his mind might be inquired into, the medical report said that he had no indications of insanity, and prisoner would therefore be committed for trial.—Mr. Huddle (clerk): Have you any statement to make?—Prisoner: No, sir.—The accused was then committed to the Central Criminal Court for trial.

Mary Jane Bee, whose husband is alleged to have thrown a paraffin lamp at her, at Grimaby, died on Wednesday night from the burns she had received.

Many infectious diseases could be prevented by having carpets regularly cleaned. Most important in hot rooms and nurseries. The recently received "Vaseline" is a valuable household remedy. One operation only. Expense trifling. Makes shabby furniture brilliant. Write for circular, Jackson and Sons, Ltd., Borough, S.E. Established 1855.—(Ad.)

## AMUSING FORTUNE-TELLING CASE.

At the Chesterfield Borough Police Court an amusing case was heard this week, in which Adelphi Westwood, Albert-street, Chesterfield, was charged with "using certain subtle craft, means, or device, by palmistry and otherwise, to deceive and impose upon" one Deborah Wood, on the 12th inst.—The complainant said that on the day in question she was in Albert-street with Ellen Hall, when she met the prisoner. They went together to a public-house, and she then said to the prisoner, "I had a little boy before I was married, and I had heard that some money had been left to me by him, but I was going to see a lawyer at Sheffield about it, but someone had told me to see you." The prisoner said she would do as well as a lawyer, and asked her if she had any money. Complainant replied that she had, and the prisoner then said she did nothing without money. The prisoner first asked for a drink, which complainant paid for, and the prisoner then said she could not do anything without 10s. She paid her some money, and the prisoner then produced a pack of cards from a bag. She shuffled them, and asked the complainant to take one. She did so, and the complainant would soon be a widow. (Laughter.) The complainant shuffled the cards, and the prisoner took nine out. The prisoner then asked to look at her hands. She traced the lines, and then told her that she would have a great deal of trouble. (Laughter.) She said that the man was in Liverpool, that he was married, and that he had one daughter. The prisoner said that some money had been left, but it was only a small amount. The prisoner stated that she would bring the matter to the complainant, and that he would bring her a handful of gold on the ninth day. (Laughter.) The prisoner then said the complainant that in order to accomplish this she was to take three pieces of paper, wrap them together, and burn them. She also said that she would have to get a bottle of liquid at the chemist's at a cost of 2s., and was to wear it in her bosom until the ninth day. The prisoner stated that she formerly used dragon's blood, but it was not strong enough, and she had to use something else. (Laughter.) The prisoner repeated the matter to the complainant, and said, "The would have it ready on the following day." The complainant said she would do it, and that her husband would be killed "in a desperate way." (Laughter.) She handed the prisoner 2s. 6d. for liquor. The prisoner told her that when the man—the father of her little boy—came he would bring some money and they would get married, and that the complainant mustn't forget her. She had a second interview with the prisoner on the same day, and the prisoner gave her the three pieces of paper wrapped up together, and the complainant threw them into the fire, repeating at the prisoner's request, "I wish to turn, it is in my heart I wish to turn. Until he returns back to me, And answers that he has done wrong."

(Much laughter.) They afterwards went up to the shop of Mr. Furness, druggist, and the prisoner went into the shop and purchased something. They afterwards went to the King's Head, where the prisoner gave her paper shape like a heart, three pieces of different liquids, and a bottle cork, and the prisoner was told to put the bottle and pins inside the bottle, and the prisoner then gave her a pill-box containing some powder, which she was also told to "toss" into the bottle. The complainant carried out the prisoner's instructions, corked up the bottle, and placed it in her bosom. She was told to tie the cork with a string, otherwise it might explode. (Much laughter.) The prisoner said she did not tell the complainant that certain things would happen, but "if my talent is to be relied upon, it will happen." (Laughter.) Ellen Hall, married woman, of Church-lane, gave corroborative evidence. She added that about two years ago she went to the prisoner to have her fortune told, and the prisoner told her. (Laughter.) She said her 5s.—Detective-sergeant Fennimore deposed to apprehending the prisoner on a warrant. She said "It's all about that illegitimate child, but I took no money from her. She only gave me 5s. for the stuff." The prisoner had a bag with her. It contained a piece of card, a pill-box, and a piece of paper with the prisoner's name and address written upon it. He presented when Mrs. Galle, the female searcher, produced a packet of dragon's blood, which she stated had fallen from the prisoner's dress. The prisoner said "It's all right. It's a packet of dye."—The magistrates said it was a pity that people had no more sense than to trust in "charms," and such things as had been produced in court, but they would try to stop the prisoner fattening on the foolishness of people. She would be sent to gaol for two months, with hard labour.

## THE "QUEEN'S FREE PARDON."

At the Licensing sessions for the Tower Hamlets this week before Mr. P. M. Martineau and other justices, an application was made for a transfer to Mr. John Hay of the license now held by his brother for the Devon Arms public-house, Morning-lane, Hackney.—Inspector Bond, J. Division, told the bench that the applicant for the license had been convicted in March, 1883, for receiving a quantity of stolen silk, and sentenced to seven years' penal servitude, but was released unconditionally in November of the same year by the then Home Secretary. Since his release he had managed the house, and had had no bad record. He had been found guilty, but he had been wrongfully convicted, and had received a free and unconditional pardon from her Majesty, on the advice of the then Home Secretary, for the offence he was supposed to have committed. Under these circumstances he felt that, as his character was absolutely free from blemish since his release, he was entitled to demand that his application for a license should be granted. If it were not he should appeal, and he necessary carry the case to the House of Lords, so as to obtain justice. If he failed he would be compelled to return his "free pardon to her Majesty as a perfectly useless and unnecessary document," which only added insult to injury, and drove him to increased misery and degradation. He might mention that his case had been brought before the House of Commons, and that the Attorney-general stated that a free and unconditional pardon restored the convicted man to his full civil rights from the particular time and circumstances under which the conviction took place, and this opinion fully confirmed by the late Judge Brandon of the Lord Mayor's court, in a civil action in which applicant was concerned, who ruled that John Hay was "entirely a new man" on obtaining his free pardon. Applicant, therefore, contended that as a "new man" in the sense thus laid down, no objection should be offered for his application, and quoted the case of a solicitor who had obtained a free pardon and had his name reinstated on the rolls.—The chairman said that, while sympathising with the applicant and hoping he would be able to carry his point, they, on consultation with the clerk, could not alter their previous decision, and the application for a transfer would therefore not be granted.—Applicant gave notice of appeal.

## DEATH FROM EXCESSIVE DRINKING.

Mr. Hilman, Sussex county coroner, has investigated the circumstances of the death, through intoxication, of Mr. E. Woodford Friel, an independent gentleman, of Gordon Lodge, Eastbourne.—The evidence showed that he was about to proceed to Australia, and was conveyed home from a local hotel in a cab in such a state of intoxication that he was unable to get out of the vehicle, and in a fashionable part of the town, caused by heavy drinking.—The coroner said it was for the proper authorities, and not the jury, to inquire whether the deceased was supplied with intoxicants at the hotel bars he visited while in a condition of inebriety.

## THE SHOEBURNESS MEETING.

The report of Colonel Stewart Nicholson, commandant of the School of Gunnery, on the Artillery meeting at Shoeburness has just been issued. It says:—"Notwithstanding a decrease in the numbers attending from Scotland and the North of England, due to camps having been formed locally, there were 174 detachments as against 169 detachments last year. While this increase gives satisfactory evidence of the interest in the meeting by the force generally, the earnest work and excellent conduct of those who were present further and even more convincing proof of it. The practice has been, and is, so good that there is some danger of the Artillery Volunteers resting satisfied with it. Admitting its excellence, however, there remains the fact that they are capable of a still higher standard if a few faults, which have been previously pointed out, were amended. The encouragement of a high general average of shooting is a point which should be kept steadily in view, and as far as possible, the competitions should be framed with this object, as well as that of fostering excellence in individual detachments. The aggregate prizes might, for instance, be made regimental instead of single detachments. Another effect of the present system is that many Nos. 1 and gunners appear and win prizes year after year. It is very natural that corps should select the best men they can to represent them, but such a course has the effect of keeping back young hands who should be coming forward. It may be that this is looked after in the regimental competitions, but, unless it is, it might be judicious to impose some small handicap on previous prize winners, such that, while they obtained a fair mead of reward, their juniors would be allowed a chance. 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## THE CROSS-COUNTRY SEASON.

The cross-country season has now arrived, the legitimate athletic events have nearly all become history, and the exciting, if somewhat arduous, sport of cross-country running, which has in a few years developed from the schoolboy pastime of chasing into one of our most popular winter sports, has taken up its position in the sporting routine of the year, and for the next six months will compensate distance athletes for the absence of athletic meetings and path events.

An open country steeplechasing now vies with football for premier position as a winter sport, and has made such gigantic progress during the last few years, it may not be out of place at this, the commencement of the season, to give our readers a brief account of its history. In 1868 the chief athletes of the day struck the idea of forming a club to indulge in social runs across country, thus emulating the schoolboys, who at that time had held a monopoly of the pastime. The Thames Harriers and Hounds was the first formed, Walter Rye, Sydney Dixon, C. H. Mason, P. H. Stanning, and others who have written their names upon the scroll of athletic fame, being among the pioneers of the sport. The back end of the same year saw the Peckham Athletic Club formed, cross-country running being a part of its programme. This club continued its existence until that title for about ten years, when it blossomed into the Blackheath Harriers, and holds at the present day a prominent position. For a year or so there were two, but the South London Harriers and the Spartan Harriers came into existence about the year 1871. But with the exception of the formation of the Clapton Beagles, Hampstead Harriers, and one or two other minor clubs, all of which are now defunct, the sport made slow progress until the year 1877, when its importance in filling a gap in the circle of sports began to be recognized, and the cross-country championship instituted. The first attempt to decide this fixture was made at Buckhurst Hill, but owing to one of those controversies which occasionally occur to mar the best laid plans and trails, the race resulted in a fiasco, thus necessitating another contest. This took place at Epsom, the Thames Harriers and Hounds winning easily. The following year the Spartan Harriers obtained pride of place, but the next year (1879) the Thames men repeated their victory of 1877. The sport was now extending to the Midlands and the North, Birmingham being especially prolific in the production of clubs, the Moseley Harriers and the Birkfield Harriers being the most powerful. The year 1880 saw the last-named team in London contesting the championship, and, much to the general surprise, they came home with the prize. From that date the National Cross-country Championship has never been won by a London club, the honour of producing the successful teams being divided between the Birmingham and Manchester and Liverpool districts. Still with the formation of the Southern, Midland, and Northern counties cross-country associations district championships are now held, each association arranging and managing a championship in its own district. The Southern counties is held near London, the Midland counties decided near Birmingham, and the Northern counties near Manchester, and Liverpool. The national championship, which is under the control of a representative body termed the National Cross-country Association, holding the fixture in rotation in the vicinity of one of the great towns mentioned.

Having glanced at the past of the sport, it is now our duty to consider the prospects of the forthcoming season. The first event of importance on the tapis is the Open Novices' Steeplechase, which in 1886 was promoted by the Spartan Harriers, and is still organized each year by that club. This race, which is open to all athletes who have never won a prize across country, takes place at Wood Green upon November 17th, and though at the present moment we cannot call to mind any runner who is likely to compare with previous winners of the event, such as C. H. Turner, G. T. Mawby, C. L. O'Malley, C. E. L. Clarke, and the brothers A. B. and W. G. George, still, no doubt, the victor as in former years will be fit to be bracketed with those who have preceded him. Of course, a large number of fixtures have yet to be arranged, but amongst those that are settled are the following: The Tower Rowing and Athletic Club on December 8th, the Finchley Harriers upon January 29th, the Lewisham Harriers and Hounds upon February 2nd, and the Highgate Harriers upon February 9th. The Saturday after the last named fixture Kempton Park will be handed over to the bipeds, the Southern Counties Cross-country Championship taking place that day upon the pretty Surrey racecourse. Last year the Finchley Harriers won, but we fancy that they will have to put up with a less prominent position upon the next occasion. Of course, it would be futile to attempt to prophesy the result of a contest of this description so long in advance, but undoubtedly the class is most strongly represented by the Spartan Harriers. The South London Harriers also intend having a good try to regain their lost laurels, it being stated that both Mabey and Coad will get into good condition in order to sustain the prestige of their club. But men come and go at athletics more so than at any other sport or pastime, and it is possible that a club not now reckoned in the running will, before the field is placed under the starter's orders upon the green award at Kempton, develop some flyers who will carry their club colours to victory. About the same time the Midlands and the North will be entering the lists to decide who shall be at the head of their respective counties, and again it is hard to prognosticate, but upon form the Birkfield Harriers should be at the top of the tree in the Midlands, and the Salford Harriers, who are enabled to claim the services of that sterling runner, E. W. Parry, should have no difficulty in retaining premier position in the North. The result of the National Championship is, however, more open than those of the various districts, for should the Salford Harriers, Birkfield Harriers, and Spartan Harriers all meet fit and well, and all-named have the services of J. Kibble, while a grand contest is sure to ensue. Certainly the Spartan Harriers is the only club upon present form which is likely to bring back the National Cross-country Championship to its birthplace.

A junior championship for the Southern counties is also being organized, the regulations for which are being prepared by Mr. Fowden, the hon. secretary of the South London Harriers, and doubtless they will be placed before the next meeting of the Southern Counties Association for consideration. The contest of this nature is sure to be interesting, as a large number of clubs will be certain to compete, but of course, until the rules showing what clubs are eligible to enter are known, it would be of no use to name the clubs most likely to fill the place positions. It may possibly be of interest to give a few particulars relative to the leading clubs, taking them in order of seniority. As far as age is concerned, the Thames Harriers and Hounds is entitled to place No. 1, but the ancient glory of this once powerful athletic club has faded from it, the alteration in the amateur athletic definition which now recognizes a mechanic, artisan, or labourer as an amateur not at all according with the tenets of the exclusive Thames Harriers and Hounds. They accordingly retired from intercourse with the outer cross-country world, and though they have their own cross-country runs and competitions, they take no part whatever in the cross-country championships. The Blackheath Harriers, once upon a time the Peckham Athletic Club, has for the past two or three years retrograded rather than advanced, for though boasting a large muster roll, few good men are running under its colours at the present time. The two clubs that we have next to refer to—the South London Harriers and the Spartan Harriers—are two of the most powerful athletic clubs in the kingdom, the Spartans being somewhat the strongest all-round, though it is rumored that they are likely to lose a couple of their best men who are about to cross the Atlantic. The Finchley

Harriers, the holders of the Southern Counties Cross-country Championship, came into existence in the year 1870. They are therefore considerably younger than the clubs already mentioned, but they thank to their energetic hon. sec., have made great advances during the past few years, although their victory in the Southern Counties Championship is more to be attributed to good luck and hard and persistent training than a high class athletic team. There are two clubs more to be mentioned—the Ranelagh Harriers and the Polytechnic Harriers—the chief claim of the former club to prominence in the cross-country world being the possession of Sidney Thomas, the best metropolitan performer across country. The Polytechnic Harriers are recruited from the well-known institute in Regent-street; they possess several good men, and, no doubt, will show prominently during the forthcoming season.

Thus, it will be seen that the cross-country season promises to exceed in interest any that have gone before. New clubs are being constantly formed in every direction, and there is no doubt of the increasing popularity of this modern winter sport.

Reports of cross-country runs on Saturdays, duly authenticated by the captain or secretary of any known club, will be inserted in the People if received at the office before 11.0 o'clock the same night.

## TRAFALGAR SQUARE.

It had been rumored that there would be a demonstration of the unemployed in Trafalgar square on Saturday, and some twenty extra constables were placed on duty there, but no crowd assembled, although several members of the party who caused so much trouble at the beginning of the year put in an appearance during the afternoon. There was, however, no attempt to loiter or to speak.

## "BLACK MARIA" IN LONG ACRE.

During the past week the authorities have blocked the whole of Bow-street in order to relay the road with wood-pavement. The consequence is that the van has to be taken to the Long Acre entrance of Broad-court, to which the prisoners, under a strong escort of police, commanded by Sergeant White, the gaoler, have to be escorted amidst the congratulations of their friends. The old scene that used to be of daily occurrence in Bow-street when the old residence of Sir John Fielding, now pulled down, was used as a police court, are being repeated in Long Acre. A block, mostly in cut papers, appears in the windows on the arrival and departure of the van; crowds block the street, and the air is full of such exclamations as "Keep yer pecker up," "Do it on yer head!" and "What yer, in again, Mary." The old days of the detective case, when the convicts giving evidence against the police officers implicated were cheered lustily and the officers correspondingly growled at are called back vividly to the mind. That the whole of the road should be taken up at one time is complained of in some quarters, but the inhabitants of Long Acre appear to be thankful for a gratuitous amusement.

## FIGHT BETWEEN A MAN AND A BEAR.

Whilst a Volunteer fete was in progress at Franklin's Gardens, Northampton, on Saturday, a man jumped into the bears' pit to get a spectator's hat, when one of the two bears immediately sprang at him from behind, and fixing its claws in the poor fellow's head commenced gnawing his scalp. The man's cries for help attracted the attention of many Volunteers, who rushed to the rescue, and, after a short struggle, succeeded in rescuing him. Lieutenant-colonel Hollis threw a bayonet at the brute and many others did the same, but to no purpose. Ultimately, Lieutenant Hull fired a bayonet on a rifle, and driving it into the shoulder and front part of the bear succeeded in beating it off, and the man, whose name transpired to be Gotch, a former attendant at the gardens, and who used to feed the bears, was rescued from his perilous position. He was at once conveyed to the infirmary, where it was found that he was very severely injured. The bear, however, through the proceedings remained quietly at the top of the pole.

## WOUNDING IN WHITECHAPEL.

An exciting scene occurred on Saturday in Leman-street, Whitechapel. A young man named McCarthy was in the Star Coffee House, and a dispute arising, it is alleged that he struck and wounded another man present, though it is not stated that the injury was inflicted with a knife. The offender was seized by two police officers, and a desperate struggle was maintained all the way to the police station, the officers and their prisoner going down several times. A large crowd assembled. The man was ultimately placed in the dock and charged.

## AN AWFUL DEATH.

The dead body of a gentleman named Montefiore Lupton, belonging to Bradford, missing since last August, and for whose recovery a reward was offered by his friends, was found on Saturday in an advanced state of decomposition in the swampy ground known as Kilbury bog, near Watford. The deceased, who had been touring in Wales and Ireland during the summer months, must have strayed into the bog, where he sank in a quagmire, and being unable to extricate himself, died of exposure and starvation.

## RUN OVER AND KILLED IN LAMBETH.

Shortly before six on Saturday evening a man, while crossing the road in Union-street, Lambeth Walk, was knocked down by a loaded cab van. He was taken on an ambulance to St. Thomas's Hospital, where it was discovered that he had sustained a serious injury. He was examined by the house surgeon and admitted to the Edward Ward, where he died soon after his admission. From a paper found on him he was identified by his wife as George Church, residing at Budman-street, York street, Walworth.

## A WOMAN AND TWO CHILDREN BURNED TO DEATH.

A deplorable accident by burning has been reported from Greenacres, county Donegal. A house on fire, and an old lady named Baggs, widow, and her two children were burnt to death. The charred remains of the woman and children were discovered in the ruins.

## IMPROVEMENTS AT HOVE.

An important improvement is to be effected to the sea front at the west end of Hove. At a meeting of the commissioners on Saturday, after a prolonged discussion it was decided to spend £8,000 in the purchase of land and for the erection of a sea-wall and esplanade.

## The City coroner was informed last week of the death on Friday evening of a lad aged 15, named William Henry Spillard, whose parents live in Cold-street, Great Dorset-street, Borough. On Thursday he was crossing New Broad-street, City, when a cab came along, and before he could get out of the way, he was knocked down and both wheels of the vehicle passed over his abdomen, inflicting shocking internal injuries which caused death to ensue the next evening.

Dr. Macdonald held an inquest on Saturday on the body of John Drury, aged 53, a hawker, lately living at 40, Essex-street, Hackney. The evidence of the witness showed that the deceased came out of the infirmary on the 9th inst., having been there for a month. The doctor advised him to stop, but he would not, saying that he wished to go home once more. He went to bed about midnight and soon after gave a deep sigh and expired. The medical evidence showed death to be due to syncope, and the jury returned a verdict accordingly.

NEW RUPTURE APPLIANCE.—Sufferers may save themselves a lifetime of discomfort and torture by using properly fitted trusses. Mr. C. B. Harrison, of 11, Oxford-street, London, W. (corner of Bathhouse-place). Note only address, and call to-day if possible. Telephone 100-1001.

## CONSERVATISM IN PECKHAM.

On Saturday Mr. J. E. Kelly, M.P. for North Camberwell, delivered an address at the Beaconsfield Club, High-street, Peckham.—Mr. J. C. Hunt, the chairman, in opening the proceedings, referred to the satisfactory fact that the club now numbered over 400 members. That was a proof that Conservatism was spreading in Peckham. Mr. Kelly, in the course of his speech, said that he had been lately described in a newspaper as an active man in minor politics. He could assure them that activity in minor politics meant an enormous amount of work. Still, he found that, small as the questions might be, there were always other matters connected with them cropping up, with which one had to deal. He had lately got into bad odour for acting, as he thought, too intently. He had been asked and refused to champion the cause of a body of firewood cutters, who complained that the Local Government Board had imposed an order allowing firewood to be made for sale by able-bodied paupers. He maintained that they had not to consider the interests of one class, but those of the community at large—(hear, hear)—and if there was one duty cast upon the guardians of the poor it was to relieve the rates by finding labour for the able-bodied paupers, such labour being necessarily unskilled. He wished to say a few words with regard to the cry raised against the Home Secretary. He had known him for a great many years, and he had the greatest respect for his judgment. (Cheers.) Mr. Matthews had been abused for refusing to offer a reward for evidence which would lead to the conviction of a man who had committed the most atrocious crimes ever known. (Hear, hear.) He had heard people discussing the matter in railway carriages and going the whole length of saying that it was perfectly monstrous that Mr. Matthews had adopted the course he had, and that he should be asked to resign his post. Only a day since was spoken to by a police officer who had been in the force 40 years. Being asked his opinion on the Home Secretary's action, he replied, "I hope he won't move from the position he has taken up. There is nothing more fatal to the ends of justice than the offering of rewards. A man can give us the evidence which would lead to the apprehension of a criminal. He does not do it. He thinks that he is possibly the only man in a position to do it, and he waits, feeling confident that a reward will be offered. It is offered, but by that time the hater has already flown. I have never scores of such cases, but I have never heard of a man who was entitled to a reward for bringing a criminal to justice who did not receive it, although no money was publicly offered." That was the experience of one who had been forty years in the metropolitan force, and he (Mr. Kelly) ventured to say there was sound reason in it. Referring to elementary education, he said there had been considerable discussion upon the question in the borough. 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offer, afford opportunity for most monstrous licence. There is nothing in this particular case to exclude it from the operation of the rule which forbids all comment upon judicial cases which are not decided. The judges who compose the commission will therefore do well to declare at the commencement of the proceedings that any comments on the course of the case will be regarded as contempt of court, and will be punished accordingly.

Our readers will find in another column full particulars of the terrible explosion which took place on Tuesday night in the dock at Calais. The Ville de Calais was a petroleum ship, and it is supposed that the explosion was caused by one of her officers taking a naked light into the hold which was full of the explosive gas generated by the oil. The affair ought, therefore to call public attention in every port to the danger of petroleum ships. It is possible that there was a special reason for the absence of ventilation in the hold of the Ville de Calais. It may be that petroleum being very volatile, proper ventilation would cause a serious diminution in the bulk of the cargo during a long sea voyage. If that be so, it would account for, though it would by no means justify, the neglect of ventilation in this case. For London this catastrophe has a special significance. Suppose such an explosion were to occur in one of our London docks, in the midst of their crowded shipping the damage done to property would probably amount to millions of pounds, not to mention the loss of life, which would be much more considerable than it was at Calais. Steps should at once be taken to ensure the perfect ventilation of these dangerous magazines of explosive gas.

**BOGUS CLUB—HEAVY PENALTY.**  
At the Worship-street Police Court on Thursday, Max Rouille and Herman Ullmitt, of Sun-street, Finsbury, appeared to seven summonses taken out by an officer of the Inland Revenue, charging them with having, on the 11th and 12th of April last, sold and dealt in tobacco, beer, wine, and spirits, without being licensed for such sales, the penalties claimed amounting to £250. Mr. Powell prosecuted for the Excise authorities. Mr. Morris, solicitor, defended. John Stoney, an officer of excise, said that on the afternoon of the 11th of April witness attended at the premises of the defendants, who were then in the possession of the premises in Sun-street, and a German, went to the premises in Sun-street, and had originally been a shop, but the door was that of a private house, with an inner door, which was usually kept shut. On knocking, the door was opened by Rouille (whose name witness gave as Julie), and some conversation took place between him and the German with witness, which he did not understand. The result of that was that they entered the club. The Magistrate (interposing): Don't call it a club. The witness (continuing) said that the German had a member's ticket handed to him. The Magistrate: You did not read it, therefore don't call it a ticket. It was a piece of cardboard. The witness proceeded, and said the German ordered larger beer for three, which was served. Witness afterwards ordered beer and cigars. They sat for an hour playing cards. The Magistrate: For money? Witness: Yes, an officer with witness then ordered some brandy and some tobacco, with white beer for the German. About half past six they left. Witness paid for what he had ordered, amounting to 1s. 7d., and Mr. Rouille paid 1s. 5d. for what he had ordered. Cross-examined by Mr. Morris, the witness said the inside of the place was fitted up with small tables round the room, the centre being occupied by billiard tables. There was nothing outside to call attention to the place. The Magistrate: What would you expect to find? "Good entertainment for man and beast?" Mr. Morris: No, sir, but some of these clubs are a club. Indeed, I strongly incline to the opinion that they are not. They are bogus clubs, which ought to be put down. Mr. Morris agreed. The witness said that Ullmitt was in the room playing billiards. He did not take part in the sale or service of anything on that date. Mr. Dickens, another officer of Inland Revenue, corroborated the evidence of Stoney, and in reply to the magistrate, said that they played cards for about two hours—halfpenny "Nap." Another officer of Inland Revenue deposed to calling on the defendant subsequent to the dates of the alleged offences, and to him the defendant admitted being the proprietor, but that the club was a legal one. The City Club, and was carried on with a president, vice-president, and four committee men ex officio. He gave witness a leaflet with the rules. This was handed to the magistrate, who remarked that the subscription appeared to be a shilling a month up to the first 400 members. Mr. Morris called five or six witnesses for the defence, who denied that Rouille was there on the 11th, and the magistrate, having heard the summonses as to the 12th, dismissed all as against Ullmitt, and convicted Rouille in penalties amounting to £140, or three months' imprisonment in default. The defendant was held to bail to pay the money in a month.

**DAMAGES AGAINST AN OMNIBUS COMPANY.**  
In the Lord Mayor's Court on Wednesday, before the recorder (Sir Thomas Chambers, Q.C.), and a special jury, the case of Harrington v. the London General Omnibus Company came on for hearing. It was an action brought by the plaintiff, Leonard Harrington, cabdriver, of Red Lion Mews, Gray's Inn-road, against the defendant company to recover the sum of £150, as damages for the alleged negligent and careless driving of one of their servants. Mr. Henry Kitch and Mr. Brandon were counsel for the plaintiff, while Mr. Alfred Cock, Q.C., and Mr. M'Coll appeared to represent the defendant company. The learned counsel, in opening the case, said that the plaintiff had been in the employ of one master for over ten years, and on the 19th of June he was proceeding up Ludgate Hill, when he was hailed by a lady and gentleman who had just come out of the Bodega wine stores. Seeing that the roadway was clear, he immediately pulled over and waited for his fares, who stood on the pavement talking. Suddenly, without any warning, an omnibus belonging to the defendants, which appeared to be racing with a London Road Car, dashed into his cab, overturning it, and pitching the plaintiff with great violence into the roadway. He was picked up and conveyed to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, where he was found to have sustained serious injuries, and, after having been attended to, he was taken home. The accident prevented him from following his employment for seven weeks, and for that he claimed the pay he had lost, as well as compensation for the pain and suffering he had undergone. When the plaintiff was being picked up he heard somebody exclaim, "Oh, don't mind about witnesses; the company will pay." The plaintiff was called, and bore out the opening statement, adding that at the time of the accident he was earning about 23 per week, independent of Sundays. For the defence it was contended that the cabman, while waiting outside the Bodega, backed his cab into the omnibus. The allegation that the omnibus was racing was denied; but the jury, after a long deliberation, found a verdict for the plaintiff, and awarded him £250 as damages.

Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, M.P., on Wednesday night addressed a meeting at Plymouth, held under the auspices of the Western Division of the National Union of Conservative Associations, and he contended that the Unionist party were the real advocates of the prosperity of Ireland.

## THE CRISIS IN THE COAL TRADE.

There is now every probability that before the end of the present month many thousands of miners in the Midland field, as well as in Lancashire, North Staffordshire, and North Wales, will have gone out on strike for an advance of 10 per cent. on the present rate of payment, which the masters refuse to grant, on the ground that the state of trade and the prices realised for coal will not admit of any advance whatever, and that they have not the power to raise their charges in the home and foreign markets, as the men are led to believe by their leaders. As to the prospects of the men, a correspondent states that the associations, to which not more than one-fourth of them belong, are far from being in a flourishing state, and the best of them are said to be in a position that at most they cannot pay more than a fortnight's strike pay to the members, while the non-unionists have nothing whatever to fall back upon, and the public is not so desirous of paying more for their coal as they have been before the strike, consequently, it is likely to be of short duration, and there is not likely to be much difficulty in obtaining supplies of fuel, although for some little time the prices, no doubt, will go up.

**Feeling in the Colliery Districts.**  
A Barnsley correspondent says:—"The possibility that something like 340,000 men and boys employed in the mines of the United Kingdom will in the course of a week be idle has created much alarm, owing to the losses which must accrue to kindred trades. Something like a panic has taken place in the iron-smelting districts isolated from the coal fields at the prospect of a dearth of coal and coke. In all the chief districts, efforts are being made to stock supplies, but this cannot be easily accomplished, owing to the fact that collieries and merchants producing coke were fully contracted up to the end of the present week. Many large collieries which manufacture coke are reserving all the slack and smudge they can command for their own ovens. According to the Government statistics, the districts likely to remain at work would be able to supply but a small portion of the iron or coal required, assuming that the production is curtailed, as the leaders of the men desire. Last year Northumberland, Durham, Cumberland, South Wales, Fife, and Clackmannan, the sliding scale districts, only produced 998,055 tons of pig iron, which required 3,727,465 tons of coal and coke to smelt. The iron trade is likely to suffer even more at the present time than it would have done at the end of last year, when there were only 405 furnaces in blast in the United Kingdom. At the end of the first quarter of the present year these had increased to 417, at which figure they remained at the end of the June quarter; but at the close of September 430 were in blast, or twenty-five more than at the close of last year. Owing to the favourable change in the state of trade, arrangements were made for blowing in several furnaces in North Lincolnshire and other districts of the country, but orders have been given to stay operations until the end of the present struggle. On the other hand, arrangements are being made in several districts for furnaces to be damped down if the supplies of coal and coke cannot be got."

**Its Effect on London.**  
Some alarmist statements have been published during the last few days as to the probable effect of the expected strike in the coal trade in Yorkshire and Staffordshire, and in some quarters there have been thrown out that a coal famine is not improbable. A correspondent, who has been in communication with several of the leading coal dealers in the metropolis, writes that the general feeling among the dealers is that the strike will come to nothing. If the quarter of a million men by whom notices have been given for an advance of wages actually did strike work, and remained out one month, London would be on the verge of a famine, and the East-end industries would be at a virtual standstill. But the agents have been making inquiries as to the probabilities of the anticipated struggle, and have formed the conclusion that the collieries will not withhold the advance. Some of the owners openly declare that they will not allow their men to strike, and others while professing a determination to withstand the demands of the men, declare in private that they shall take the same course as the other owners. The immediate effect of the excitement which the expected strike has caused in the trade has been an advance in the price of coal, and if the 5 per cent. advance is conceded; another advance in price will be made immediately. The gas companies have contracts with many of the affected collieries, but in many cases there is no clause in the contracts, and the advance in the price of coal will in no way affect the companies. The owners will in some cases suffer heavily.

Over four hundred miners employed at the Shireoaks and Darfolds pits gave in notices on Thursday for the 10 per cent. advance, and it is expected that other notices will be sent in. A deputation from the men has been appointed to wait on the managers.

**IMPORTANT TO RAILWAY TRAVELLERS.**  
In the Lord Mayor's Court, before the assistant judge (Mr. F. Roxburgh) and a jury, the case of Sewell v. the London, Tilbury, and Southend Railway Company, came on for hearing. The plaintiff, a master builder, of West Ham, sued the defendant company to recover damages for personal injuries sustained. Mr. M'Intyre, for the plaintiff, said the case was one of considerable importance to railway passengers and companies. The plaintiff, in May last, was a passenger from Bromley Railway Station to West Ham, and having obtained his ticket, ran along the platform, the train being then waiting. Whilst passing a dark part of the station the plaintiff fell over a box which was lying in the middle of the platform. He severely injured his leg, which laid him up for nearly a month. Mr. Langley said that the box belonged to him, and was placed against the wall. Mr. M'Intyre: Are you the owner of the box? No. What are you? A judge. (Laughter.)—And at what court does your lordship sit? Leadenhall Market, of course. (Loud laughter.)—Were there any porters at the station? Yes. Why did not one of them carry your box for you? Why, because I did not have twopenny to give him. (Renewed laughter.)—The jury returned a verdict for the defendant company.

**AN EXTRAORDINARY VERDICT.**  
A man named York was charged at the Northamptonshire Quarter Sessions on Thursday with an indecent assault on a little girl, and although the charge was fully corroborated and not a word was said in defence, the jury returned a verdict of not guilty. This called forth some strong remarks from the chairman, who asked them how could they, as parents, expect to protect their children when they returned such verdicts.

**A CEMETERY FOR WILLESDEN.**  
A meeting was held on Wednesday at the Willesden Vestry Hall to obtain the sanction of the vestry to purchase 30 acres of land for a new cemetery. It was also to determine whether or not burial should be allowed on the land, and the necessary buildings. It was proposed that this sum should be borrowed, and charged upon the poor rates of the parish. A large number of people opposed to the scheme were present, and the meeting was a stormy one. Finally, a poll of the parish was demanded.

An excellent portrait model of Prince Bismarck has been added by Madame Tussaud and Sons to their imposing group representing the lying-in-state of the late Emperor William of Germany. Mary Davis, a servant girl, was remanded at the Westminster Police Court on the charge of having stolen 25 in gold, a pair of earrings, and eight bottles of wine. The prisoner left the prosecutor's service without notice, and the money and the earrings were missed.

## SHOCKING TRAGEDY AT TOTTENHAM.

**Attempted Murder and Suicide.**  
What appears to have been a premeditated attempt at murder, followed by determined suicide, occurred at Tottenham on Wednesday. The spot where the tragedy took place is a somewhat secluded one, behind a small chapel of the Strict Baptists, in an unbuild-upon thoroughfare called Napier-road, slightly off Philip-lane on the United Land Company's Estate, and locally known as Mount Pleasant Fields. Shortly before twelve on Wednesday morning—the fog being dense at the time—Dr. Vos, of the High-road, Tottenham, was in Philip-lane, when he heard two shots fired and cries of murder. Deciding in his own mind where the sounds proceeded, he hurried into Napier-road, and there found two men on the ground, one groaning and the other silent. The latter, on being quickly examined, was seen to be quite dead. The doctor was then alone, but immediately afterwards, Police-constable North, 83 N, came upon the scene. It appears that a young man, named Pink, had called at the Tottenham Police Station and reported that something dreadful had happened in Mount Pleasant Fields. Inspector Stannard, who had charge of the station, at once despatched North to investigate the matter, and that officer found a revolver lying on the right-hand side of the dead man. The weapon in a pin-fire, and the air chambers, four of which were empty, the other two being loaded. Later on, on searching the clothes of the deceased, seven cartridges fitting the revolver, a pair of spectacles, a medicine bottle containing cough mixture, and a small sum of money in silver and bronze were discovered in the pockets. Dr. Vos finding that the living man had a serious wound on the left temple, ordered his removal to the Tottenham Hospital, whither he was forthwith conveyed, other policemen having then arrived.

**The Wounded Man's Injuries.**  
On reaching the hospital the case was taken in hand by Dr. Brooks, who found that a bullet was embedded in the forehead on the left side, and prompt measures were adopted to extract it. The patient was placed under the influence of chloroform, and after a difficult operation the ball was removed. On Wednesday evening, however, the unfortunate man was pronounced to be in a precarious condition, although (it was said) he might survive. The deceased is Henry Elliott, aged about 60, who resided in Ball's Pond-road. His body was taken to the Tottenham Mortuary, to await an inquest. The injured man, who is also advanced in years, is Thomas Morris, of Walthamstow. The two are relatives by marriage, and they were on Wednesday engaged, with John Morris, also a relation, in removing turf, of the man whose life he attempted to take, but that of late further advances had been refused. It was also stated that in consequence of such refusal, deceased had been heard to threaten violence towards Morris, particularly during the last few days. It is believed, too, that deceased had carried the revolver about with him for some time, and that he availed himself of the fog which prevailed on Wednesday morning to carry out his intention to commit murder and suicide. The shocking affair created a great sensation in the neighbourhood, and all kinds of rumour connected with it, with the Whitechapel horrors were circulated.

**A SENSATIONAL RUMOUR IN BERMONDSEY.**  
Some sensation was caused in Bermondsey on Thursday morning by a rumour to the effect that another horrible tragedy had been committed in that district, a woman having been found with her throat cut. The story, which proved to be unfounded, had its origin in the fact that at an early hour that morning a drunken woman fell upon the kerbstone of the pavement in one of the thoroughfares of Bermondsey, and injured her chin. She was discovered lying in the gutter in a semi-conscious state, blood flowing from her chin. It was found, on examination, that she was not seriously injured.

**SCENE AT AN EXHIBITION.**  
At the Woolwich Police Court, George Durward was summoned to appear before Mr. Walter Parry Candler, who said he went on Monday night to an exhibition of Hamilton's Panorama at the Royal Assembly Rooms, Woolwich, having with him two children, and purchased tickets for the gallery. There was a great crowd, and when he got within three steps of the top an attendant called out, "No more room in the gallery; shilling tickets pass down; sixpenny ticket-holders please pass down, and have their money returned." Witness and his children tried to get down, but the shilling people, pressing forward, caused a complete block, and he could hardly move. Then the defendant appeared, and, being a big powerful man, drove his way through the crowd, and ordered the sixpenny ticket-holders to go down. Witness said they would be glad to get down if they could, and the defendant seized him by the throat and thrust him violently down four steps. He would have fallen if he had not caught hold of a post.—Defendant: Did I not ask you and the others to go quietly down for fear of a panic? Complainant: Yes, but then there was a panic, caused by the rush of people in two directions, and women and children were screaming. I could have gone into the hall by paying for 1s. seats, but I did not want to do that. You were very angry, and one of the other attendants told me that you were an excitable character.—Other witnesses having confirmed this statement, the defendant called Charles Wren, the check-taker at the top of the stairs, who said the complainant and others who had sixpenny tickets were reluctant to go down, and he prevented them from coming up. They seemed to expect that they would be put into superior seats if they remained, and the consequence was a block and great confusion. The defendant begged the sixpenny ticket people to go down and get their money returned, but the complainant did not attempt to move until the defendant took hold of his collar and pushed him. The defendant only did his duty in allaying the panic and preventing an accident. Witness had been ten years with the exhibition, and never saw such a scene before.—Arthur Halls, the hall-keeper, said the complainant could have stood on one side and let other people pass, but he and others deliberately stopped the way. The issue of all tickets was suspended until the crush was over, and only fifteen persons had their money returned.—Mr. Marsham: It was a mistake to issue more tickets than the gallery would hold, but I think some allowance must be made for the defendant on account of the possibility of danger to the public. He may have used a little too much violence, but he probably thought he was doing his best under critical circumstances, and the justice of the case will be sufficiently met by his paying the costs of the summons, 2s.

**AN EASY EXPLANATION.**  
The story of three bodies being "snatched" from a vault in Folkestone Churchyard, which appeared in some of the papers a few days since, proves to have been a mistake arising from lack of sufficient investigation. The undertaker who conducted the last interment explains that on that occasion the three coffins already placed in the vault were removed to one end, being laid alongside the then interred body, thus leaving the vault to all appearance empty. The vault is a very large one, and was constructed as to make such a mistake easily possible.

## CONFESSION OF A MURDER AT WESTMINSTER.

A man giving the name of William Russell, and stating that he was discharged a week ago from an American ship, the National Eagle, at the Victoria Docks, Liverpool, has given himself up to the police at Maidenhead, accusing himself of having committed a murder in London on the night of the 13th inst. He says that on the night in question he had been drinking with a woman, whom he calls "Annie." They subsequently quarrelled, and he threw the woman over the parapet of Westminster Bridge into the Thames. He then ran away, and has since been hiding at Kew and Windsor. Haunted, however, by the belief that he was being hunted down, he became so uneasy that he could get no rest, and consequently surrendered himself to the police. He describes the woman as rather good-looking, of dark complexion, and rather stout—"the type," he says, "of a London girl." Russell was detained by the police, and late on Sunday night the attention of Sergeant Mead was attracted by a strange gurgling sound, as of some one suffocating. The officer went to the room where the prisoner was confined, and found him black in the face from an attempt to strangle himself. He had tied a silk handkerchief tightly round his throat, the sergeant arriving just in time to remove it and save the man's life. He was charged before the magistrates on Monday with attempting to commit suicide, and remanded for a week for inquiries to be made.

**A WOMAN'S THROAT CUT AT PECKHAM.**  
At the Lambeth Police Court on Tuesday, Thomas Onley, 62, traveller, and Frank Hall, 20, seaman, both living at No. 66, Hornby-street, Peckham, were charged before Mr. Biron, Q.C., with being concerned together in attempting to murder Sarah Brett, by cutting her throat with a carving-knife at 66, Hornby-street.—Inspector Taylor, P. Division, informed his worship that the injured woman was unable to attend.—Mr. Biron said he would hear sufficient evidence to allow of a remand.—Inspector Taylor stated that whilst duty on Monday night at Peckham Police Station, he received information which induced him to go, in company with Detective Burton and Police-constable Bennett, to Hornby-street, Peckham. In the middle of the road, way, opposite the door of No. 66, he found Sarah Brett, aged about 53, lying on the ground. She was bleeding very much from a wound about four inches long, commencing from the left side of the neck, and reaching the centre of the throat. He at once sent for a surgeon. He asked the woman who had cut her, and she said, "Frank, the sailor." Dr. T. G. Mansfield, of Southwark-street, soon arrived, and he left her in his care, and with the other officer passed through No. 66, and from thence obtained admission by the back of No. 66. In a back bedroom he found the prisoner Hall lying on a bed with his trousers on, and endeavoured to arouse him. He appeared to be drunk. Witness then proceeded to the front bedroom, and found the other officer. The prisoner Onley was sitting on the side of the bed. He said, "Bennett, I have found this knife in the bed," and produced a large carving-knife with wet blood upon the blade. Witness had the prisoners detained until he had removed the injured woman to Newington Infirmary. There she became more sensible, and from what she said both prisoners were taken into custody and charged.—Mr. Biron: What had the prisoners to do with the woman?—Inspector Taylor: She was living with Onley as his wife, and Hall lodged in the same house.—It was further stated that there was a deal of blood in the kitchen. Chairs and other articles had been overturned and a lamp smashed.—Mr. Biron said the prisoners would be remanded.—Mr. Sydney asked that they might be admitted to bail.—Mr. Biron: Most decidedly not.—The prisoners were then remanded.

**A HYDE PARK MYSTERY.**  
A young woman, 16 years of age, who gave the name of Edith Gray, was charged at Marlborough-street Police Court with wandering in Hyde Park without visible means of subsistence.—Inspector Dauncey, A. Division, deposed that about seven o'clock that (Tuesday) morning, he found the girl wandering in Hyde Park. She was very cold and hungry, and he took her at once to the station, where she was supplied with food and placed before a fire. She told him she had an uncle and some cousins residing in Baker-street. He caused inquiries to be made at the address given, and the statement was found to be false. Then she said she had been living at a house in Adam-street, but on asking the landlord if he knew anything about her he said that he did not, but that she had been occupying a room on and off for about two months. She further mentioned that she had a brother in the police force, and that her mother lived at 106 Green, Barr-lane, York, both of which statements turned out to be untrue. As he could obtain no information as to who she really was, and believing that she had wilfully misled him, he charged her with being destitute, with the view of finding her friends. He was under the impression the girl had been led away by some one.—Mr. Hannay asked the prisoner if she wished to say anything, remarking that if she desired it he would try and find her friends for her.—The girl remained perfectly mute.—Mr. Hannay remanded her for a week, observing that in the meantime the complainant of the House of Detention would speak to her and some lady might interest herself on her behalf.—The following is a description of the girl: Edith Gray (name supposed to be false), age 16, complexion fair, 4ft. 10in. high, brown hair, cut short. She wears a dark lacy skirt, trimmed with velvet, blue spotted bodice, black tight-fitting jacket, fur cape, low shoes, and white straw hat trimmed with white ribbon.

## BOILER EXPLOSION—FOUR MEN KILLED.

An inquest has been held at Birmingham into the circumstances attending the deaths of four men killed by the explosion of a boiler at the mills of Messrs. Watson, Todd, and Watson on the 20th September. The boiler was one of four standing in a yard and cistern by a slight structure of wood, while other side runs of the walls of the second-class ticket-holders' room coming up. They seemed to expect that they would be put into superior seats if they remained, and the consequence was a block and great confusion. The defendant begged the sixpenny ticket people to go down and get their money returned, but the complainant did not attempt to move until the defendant took hold of his collar and pushed him. The defendant only did his duty in allaying the panic and preventing an accident. Witness had been ten years with the exhibition, and never saw such a scene before.—Arthur Halls, the hall-keeper, said the complainant could have stood on one side and let other people pass, but he and others deliberately stopped the way. The issue of all tickets was suspended until the crush was over, and only fifteen persons had their money returned.—Mr. Marsham: It was a mistake to issue more tickets than the gallery would hold, but I think some allowance must be made for the defendant on account of the possibility of danger to the public. He may have used a little too much violence, but he probably thought he was doing his best under critical circumstances, and the justice of the case will be sufficiently met by his paying the costs of the summons, 2s.

**RUN OVER: £150 DAMAGES.**  
At the Middlesex Sheriffs' Court on Thursday, before Mr. Under-sheriff Barchell and a jury, the case of Coffey v. Batey and Co. came on for the assessment of damages, judgment having been got by default in the High Court, for injuries sustained by the alleged negligent driving of the defendant's motor car. Mr. Coffey, who was the plaintiff was a labourer in the employ of a firm of brewers, was 65 years of age, and resided at 2, Spring Gardens, Whitechapel, and that the defendants were Messrs. Batey and Co. (Limited), mineral water manufacturers, 216, Kingsland-road, N. On the 9th July the plaintiff was in Brick-lane, Whitechapel, when one of the defendants' vans with two horses came violently upon him, and he was knocked down, trampled upon, and so seriously injured that he was in the Whitechapel Infirmary for two months, and would not be unfit for work for some considerable time. The plaintiff had been in receipt of £1 5s. 10d. per week.—There was practically no defence, and the jury awarded the plaintiff £150.

## HIGHWAY ROBBERY IN BIRMINGHAM.

A highway robbery of a particularly audacious character was committed in Birmingham last night on Monday. A rent collector named Twist, in the employ of a rather extensive house owner, during the morning was engaged in the vicinity of Watery-lane receiving rents from the tenants, and by noon the proceeds of his work amounted to something like £50. This sum he carried in a small leather bag, and, while crossing the canal-bridge in Watery-lane, about nine in number, he was easily overpowered and thrown to the ground, the bag was wrested from his grasp, and the thieves having thus accomplished their aim decamped, leaving their victim still lying on the ground crying for help. By dropping over the canal-bridge the ruffians got on to the towing path and escaped. Twist is well-known in the district as a rent collector, and it is believed that his movements had been carefully watched.

## A DANGEROUS GANG.

George James, 18, a youth who gave an address at a common lodging-house, was charged at Westminster Police Court, before Mr. Partridge, with being concerned with others in custody in robbing a constable and robbing an old man named John Edwards, a tailor, at Horseferry-road, Westminster, on the night of the 13th inst.—The prosecutor said that at a quarter of an hour before midnight he was quietly going home, being perfectly sober, when the prisoner asked for a light. Witness put his hand to his pocket, when James kicked his feet from under him, causing him to fall heavily on the back of his head. Although stunned by the fall, he was conscious that the prisoner concerned with others, another man his legs, and that two others seized his pockets, taking all the silver he had. He could not cry out for assistance, as James held something over his mouth.—Mr. Charles Meredith Thring, clerk, of St. George-street, Westminster, stated that on the night of the 13th inst. he was out with a friend when his attention was attracted to the prosecutor being held down by the men. They ran off when he approached closely. He pursued the prisoner a long distance, and finally caught him and handed him over to a constable.—Inspector Bennett, 741 A, said that as he was conveying the defendant to the station he was suddenly attacked by a gang of at least twenty roughs, who knocked him down and got their companion away. An attempt was also made to assault Mr. Thring, who rendered most valuable assistance to the police.—Evidence of the reappearance of the accused under very trying circumstances was given by a plain clothes constable named Friend Brown, and Mr. Partridge commended him, and observed that the thanks of the public were due to Mr. Thring, who had behaved in a very plucky manner. He committed the prisoner to the Central Criminal Court for highway robbery with violence, and said that the police could have warrants against others concerned in the outrage.

## KENNINGTON CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION.

The inaugural smoking concert in connection with the Conservative Association for the No. 3 polling district of Kennington was held on Tuesday evening at the Cleveland Arms, Viceroy-road, South Lambeth, when Mr. Cubison occupied the chair, being faced by Mr. Ernest William Cox, as vice-chairman. There was a capital attendance of members, and a most enjoyable evening was spent. Mr. Joseph Pearce, pianist, gave in fine style "Queen of my Heart" and "Daddy," and afterwards, as encores, "The Distant Shore" and "Irene Hill Dore." Mr. Longley also scored heavily for his fine rendering of Sims's recitation, "Christmas Day in the Workhouse," while his vocal efforts, "Mashed on the Organ Man," "Up She Goes," and "My Mother-in-law," were rewarded with hearty applause. The sentimental part of the programme was well supported by Messrs. Toulson, Runney, T. Hooper, M'Donald, Popple, Hawes, and Closs, while the comic element was efficiently represented by Messrs. Brown, Moody, Peel, Popple, Leonard, Dove, and Bland. It was announced during the evening that the committee had arranged an excellent programme for the winter season, including concerts, addresses, and discussions. Among those gentlemen who have consented to give addresses are Mr. R. Gent-Davis, M.P., Mr. H. C. Richards, Mr. H. Duke, Mr. E. J. Acres, and Mr. E. W. Cox. In addition to the concerts and addresses the members have the free use of a large club-room, where all games are played, and as the subscription is only one shilling per annum, the association, which meets at the Cleveland Arms every Tuesday evening, should be popular.

## HE WANTED A WIFE.

The City guardians have received a penniless application for a wife. The letter says:—"15th October, 1888.—Dear Gentlemen: Board of Guardians will you kindly find me a Lady wife for company Keeper or one that like a Husband to Look after Her Bissness and to tend to her Home affairs if you can I should be much obliged to you they can vencher to place true comfort in my arms as I belong to a very respectable family on both sides I have been a Widower 2 years and 4 months and I have 2 Girls and one son my age 41 and the Holdest Girl is 13 and the youngest Girl 9 and the Boy 11. Gentleman kindly take this under Hand for me with the Gratest as we might do some one sum Good and be a pleassuer to thim I have Good Living parents hear and I have Lived hear from a child in the village of Glenfield 3 miles from Leicester. Gentleman you can place true Conforance in me from a true man I will inclose photo to you for them to see for themselfs." A postscript said:—"They are nice Looking Children and a Lady that would take to us Can Have us the Children and I would Like to Leave Hear as a change would do us Good."

## FRUIT CULTIVATION.

In his inaugural address at the National Conference on Apples and Pears at Chiswick on Tuesday, Sir Trevor Lawrence, M.P., president of the Horticultural Society, adverted to the great interest which was now taken in the subject of fruit cultivation, owing in some measure to the observations made by gentlemen occupying positions in the political world, who were possibly very much at loss for a subject upon which to speak.—(Laughter.)—said he wished his hearers that they would not find in the cultivation of fruit a panacea for the troubles which had been afflicting the agricultural classes. The utmost that could be expected was that it would afford some assistance by increased intelligence and skill. So long as we continue to import fruit to the amount of £6,000,000 or £7,000,000 a year people would quote the fact as an evidence of what might be done in this country; but it should not be forgotten that a very large proportion of that amount represented fruit that could not be grown in this country. A point of great importance was undoubtedly the question of railway rates, and he thought the Legislature had acted wisely in deciding that preferential rates should be considered and revised by the Board of Trade, because all were painfully aware how the railways had had the monopoly of the means of transport in this country.—On the motion of Mr. Shirley Hibberd, seconded by Mr. Chwal, a vote of thanks was accorded to the chairman, who in responding, called attention to the fact that the exhibits on this occasion were much more carefully named than in 1883 and 1885, which showed that the people were beginning to understand their business better.

An alarming fire occurred on Wednesday afternoon at the Old Kent-road Station of the London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway Company. The fire broke out in one of the arches under the station, and before it was extinguished it had extended to other arches, and parts of the main platform was destroyed; but after a delay of about an hour and a half the traffic on the line was resumed.



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## "THE PEOPLE" MIXTURE.

The pay of the Victorian naval commandant has been fixed at £1,028 per annum.

The Cardiff bazaar for the relief of the poor has been a success. Another fine of £20 and costs has been inflicted.

A memorial to her Majesty the Queen is in course of signature praying that the name of the town of Slough may be changed to Upton Royal.

An alarming outbreak of measles of the most malignant character has occurred in the Potteries district.

Her Majesty has approved of the appointment of the Lord Advocate, Mr. Macdonald, to the office of Lord Justice Clerk in Scotland.

Little George Lugton had his arm literally torn off at a thrashing mill at Crumstance, a little place near Dunfermline. The boy is dead.

Twelve British ships and thirty-one foreign vessels with ninety lives lost, were reported last week.

Canon Pigou, vicar of Halifax, has now accepted the offer by the Prime Minister of the deanery of Chichester, worth £800 a year, vacant by the death of Dean Burgh.

Peter Anderson, a quarry worker, of Cluny, near Aberdeen, quarrelled with his wife. During it, he, so it is said, stabbed her in the abdomen with a cleaver-knife, with the result that she died.

A burglar has managed to carry off a considerable quantity of valuable property from the residence of Miss Clements, King Edward-road, Rochester.

William Jones, a tramp, stole a coat and trousers at Shrewsbury. The Quarter Sessions have rewarded his crime with seven years' penal servitude.

It is not at all improbable that the Amer of Afghanistan will, if the circumstances of his country permit, pay a visit to this country in the course of next year.

Thomas Burke was working near the engine-shed at Dalry, near Edinburgh. While in a stooping position gathering up his tools he was killed by a passenger train from Leith.

A new substitute for the jute bagging is a chocolate-coloured material made of the needles of southern pine trees. It is claimed that this does not take fire easily, and is very tough.

A horticultural and technical college has been opened at Swanley, Kent, where about a hundred students will have every facility for acquiring a knowledge of scientific horticulture.

William McIntyre, 83 years, residing at Hillhead, a suburb of Glasgow, leaped from his second-storey window, and falling upon some railings, was impaled and so severely injured that he expired almost immediately.

An order of attachment has been issued by Judge Boyd in Dublin against Mr. Piers Mahony, M.P., for inciting tenants on the Delmege estate not to receive an abatement that had been offered to them.

Mr. Gaimson is a member of the New South Wales Parliament. This is how he concluded a recent speech: "He would be glad if the Premier would answer that question instead of grinning like a Cheshire cat."

The English wife of the Sheriff of Wazan contradicts the report that her husband had separated from her. She states that she happens to be in Algeria because she has, as usual, brought back her sons to the Algiers College.

The Newport Harbour commissioners have determined to continue a voluntary rate of 1s. upon ships entering the harbour, towards clearing off a debt of £1,000 on the Missions to Seamen Church and Institute there.

Mrs. Ruth Hall, the eccentric Wallingford (Conn.) woman, who lately had her cradle converted into a coffin, died last week, and her peculiar wishes about her funeral were carried out to the letter.

The enforcement of the Chinese exclusion law is causing serious difficulty in the United States. At San Francisco several hundreds of Chinamen arriving on steamers are refused a landing, despite the efforts of the Chinese officials to secure admission for those having return certificates.

There is a class of people in Tientsin, and throughout the province of Chihli generally, known by the popular designation of "Kwan Sing Tsu," or Blacklegs, whose vocation is to intimidate street boys, and levy blackmail on gambling establishments and all places of doubtful repute.

While a jeweller's collector was walking along Crutons-lane, Birmingham, carrying a bag containing £100, he was attacked by three thieves, who knocked him down and snatched the bag from him. Some spectators of the robbery gave chase, but the thieves got clear away.

At a meeting of the general committee of the National Sea Fisheries Protection Association, a resolution was adopted declaring it to be desirable that a certain plot of vacant land near Billingsgate Market should be included in the public thoroughfare in order to facilitate the sale and distribution of fish.

George Bryson and a woman claiming to be his wife went to Helena, Montana, several weeks ago, from Minneapolis. They quarrelled over \$2,500 the woman had in her possession. A short time after the woman disappeared, but subsequently her body was found with the skull crushed. Bryson is under arrest.

No further damage is apprehended by any stone-work falling from the Monument, as all pieces which were likely to fall have been removed. The foundations have been examined, and found to be quite sound. The Monument will be closed for the necessary repairs for about six weeks or two months.

At the Liberties Court, Limerick, on Thursday, Mayor O'Keefe, M.P., attended in order to assert his right to preside, the court being within the borough. The other magistrates, however, objected, and all left the court abruptly except Mr. Spillane, who with the mayor disposed of the cases.

On the reassembling of the French Chamber, M. Floquet introduced his bill for the revision of the constitution, the object of which, the Prime Minister said, was to improve existing institutions and arm the Republic against a Royalist restoration or the establishment of a dictatorship. By a large majority the bill was referred to the revision committee.

An inquest was held at the Wetherby Arms, Chelsea, on the body of John Collins Poulton, an artist, aged 50, who was discovered fatally shot at his lodgings, 478, King's-road, Chelsea. Evidence was given to the effect that the deceased, who had no money, was unable to sell his pictures, and this seemed to have preyed on his mind. The jury returned a verdict of suicide while of unsound mind.

The death is recorded, at the advanced age of 81 years, of Mr. Robert Savill, formerly assistant secretary of the London and North-Western Railway. Mr. Savill was originally appointed as transfer clerk to the company in 1833, and was the originator of the comprehensive system adopted in the registration offices of all railway companies, and to him also is due the payment of dividends to the proprietors by warrant.

At Portsmouth a man named Birchall has been sentenced to three months' hard labour for assaulting his wife. Since the Whitechapel murders the prisoner had frequently rushed about the house at night with an open knife threatening to repeat the Whitechapel atrocities upon his wife and three daughters. He was kneeling upon his wife and flourishing a knife when seized by a neighbour.

The Rev. David M'Anally has been presented by the churchwardens and congregation of St. John the Evangelist, Penzance, with an inscribed silver salver and a cheque for £25, "in grateful recognition of the benefits to the neighbourhood which have resulted from his devoted services during his thirty years' tenure of office as vicar of the parish," which position, together with the

rural deanery, he has lately resigned in consequence of impaired eyesight.

China has only forty miles of railway, and Japan only 236.

The cultivation of coffee in Java and Sumatra amounted to \$5,769,454.

Last week's exports from the United States amounted to \$5,769,454.

The French vintage reports are excellent. Phylloxera appears to be absent.

Over 500,000 two-cent postage stamps are sold daily in the New York Post Office.

The employers of the North Staffordshire engineers have consented to give to the men the advance of 2s. per week asked for.

Fogs have prevailed in London during the week, one on Wednesday morning being particularly dense.

A South Wales paper states, "on excellent authority," that the Queen desires to visit that district in the spring of next year.

The Turners' Company's twentieth annual exhibition of turnery will be held at the Mansion House on the 26th inst., by the Lord Mayor.

One hundred and eighty-six patients were relieved at the British Hospital for Diseases of the Skin in Great Marlborough-street during last week.

While the Landgrave Frederick William of Hesse was on a voyage from Ostavia to Singapore, he fell overboard and was drowned. The prince was only 34 years old.

United States railway mileage is over six times as great as that of Germany, and nearly seven times as great as that of Great Britain and Ireland.

The carriage of mails through the Suez Canal has been arranged with the Great Western Railway Company, thus obviating a long detour, and saving several hours in the transit of letters between the south-west and north of England.

Mr. Courtney, M.P., remarked at Bodmin that while a good deal was heard from Ireland about evictions and other troubles arising out of the land question, little or nothing was heard of Home Rule.

The Queensland Royal mail steamer Quetzal left on Tuesday with the following emigrants on board: 143 single men, 239 single women, and 161 married couples and children, making a total of 476 souls.

Arthur E. Bateman, the great American banker, who can now afford to keep a yacht that cost him \$5,000, was once an apprentice boy in the United States Navy. Now, he is heavily interested in railroads.

The average cost of railways in the United States is said to be £6,000 per mile—in England it is about £40,000—a mile or road or light railway can be constructed and equipped for from £4,000 to £5,000 per mile.

On October 1st there were no less than 1,200 commissions vacant in Volunteer corps. In the metropolitan and Home District the deficiency is over 200, in Scotland 150, in Lancashire 250, and in Yorkshire over 100.

Samuel Leather, a retired Northwich publican, was killed in a trap accident on Sunday night. He was thrown from his vehicle, and the shaft of the colliding conveyance penetrated his brain, killing him instantly.

At Earle's shipbuilding yard, Hull, a new steamer has been launched for the Great Eastern Railway Company's continental service between Liverpool, Antwerp, and Rotterdam. The vessel, which was named the Colchester, is a sister ship to the Cambridge.

The revenue from April 1st to the 15th inst. amounted to £11,128,131, or £25,771 more than the £11,074,420 received in the preceding corresponding period. The expenditure up to the 15th inst. was £27,861,377, being £760,371 more than for the previous period.

The United States Circuit Court at San Francisco has decided that the Chinese Exclusion Act is constitutional, and that all Chinamen now in port, or coming there, must be excluded. This affects 1,300 Chinamen, whose friends will appeal to the Supreme Court.

There is an appointment in General Harkness and Colonel Richards being selected to convey the old flag of the Border Regiment to Kendal Church, where they will remain. Together these gallant officers carried these colours to the heights of Alamein.

Mr. Henry Hillam, who for twenty years has been manager of the Burton Brewery Company, was driving home after business, and when in the High-street, Burton, the horse took fright at some place, and becoming restive, snapped the shafts of the vehicle, throwing out Mr. Hillam, who sustained such injuries that he died on Tuesday.

At the Warwickshire Quarter Sessions, Edward Parry, 29, butler, in the employment of Mrs. Dugdale, Blyth Hall, Colehill, Warwickshire, pleaded guilty to stealing 588 bottles of wine and spirits, valued at £140, during June, July, and August last, and was sentenced to ten months' imprisonment.

The Cambridge syndicate on local examinations and lectures have reported to the Senate on the subject of home study, recommending that they should be authorized to make arrangements, in concert, if they think fit, with other Universities, for encouraging and guiding home study in any part of the British dominions.

By a great fire which occurred in Glasgow on Sunday damage amounting to about £150,000, was done to two large warehouses in Buchanan-street tenanted by eight firms. On Monday an adjoining warehouse, the foundation of which had been sapped by the water poured on the fire, fell into the street, bringing the damage up to £200,000.

The first girl baby born in the camp at Denver (U.S.), in 1890, was given "all the land in sight of her father's cabin," by public-spirited citizens, but as the taxes were never paid on it, the property, which is now worth about \$2,000,000, fell into other hands. The baby is now Miss Harvey, and shines in concert halls in the town of which she once owned so large a portion.

The monotony of gaol life in a Florida town was broken by a prize fight between two of the prisoners. They occupied different cells, but the obliging gaoler allowed them to come together in the yard, where they pumelled each other to the enjoyment of the gaoler and the sheriff, who were onlookers. The encounter was the outcome of an old grudge, and at its conclusion the belligerents peaceably returned to their cells.

A woman who applied for relief from the City guardians, had in her possession a bank-book which showed she had nearly £200 standing to the credit of her husband, who is missing. She stated that on another book there was nearly £700, but she could not touch either of these deposits, and was absolutely in want. The committee agreed to offer a reward of £2 for news of the husband.

By permission of the Commander-in-Chief, the first war game of the season was played on Tuesday night in the Levée-room, Horse Guards, Whitehall, in the presence of a considerable number of officers of the regular services. The players were—for Red, Lieutenant-colonel Lord Kilmarock and Lieutenant V. J. Ferguson, Royal Horse Guards, and for "Blue," Lieutenant-colonel V. Hutton and Lieutenant the Hon. W. L. Bagot, Grenadier Guards. It is intended shortly to organise a series of war games for officers of the auxiliary forces.

Mr. Goeben presided at Gresham College at a meeting in connection with the Society for the Extension of University Teaching. The society, he said, was practically carrying into effect the idea of Sir T. Gresham in founding that college, and he believed it had made some advance in solving the problem how higher education, such as is obtained at the Universities, can be acquired by busy men and women simultaneously with pursuing their business in life. He hoped the Royal Commission which was now sitting would devise a scheme by which this college would be

made a part of some great scheme of University teaching for the metropolis.

The Court will not leave Balmoral for Windsor until the 14th of November.

The strike on the Chicago street railways has come to an end.

The freedom of the borough of Hastings has been presented to Lord Brassey by the corporation.

Thomas Bee has been remanded at Glimby charged with setting his wife on fire by throwing a paraffin lamp at her.

A Calcutta correspondent says that twenty-five persons have been killed at a village festival in Madras by an explosion of gunpowder.

The Berlin police have been very busy in endeavouring to confiscate all copies of the German translation of Sir Morell Mackenzie's book.

The French Minister of War has decided that in future no foreign officer shall be received in the military colleges or establishments of France or be allowed to serve with French regiments.

Strike riots have occurred in New South Wales, the officials of a mine employing non-unionists being stoned. The military were called in, and several arrests were made.

A conspiracy against the authority of the Dutch has been discovered at Modicon, on the island of Java. Forty-two of the ringleaders were arrested, and eleven others who refused to surrender were shot.

James Dolman, secretary to a bricklayers' society, charged at Shrewsbury Sessions with having embezzled several small sums, the money of the society, pleaded guilty, and was sentenced to ten months' imprisonment.

The Premier of Victoria is said to be making great efforts to obtain the co-operation of all the Australian Governments in supporting the project for constructing a telegraphic cable between Australia and Canada.

Henry John Staff, an assistant teacher in a Beckenham Board School, has been fined by the Bromley magistrates, with the alternative of a month's hard labour, for committing a violent assault upon a scholar.

A man named John Williams has been remanded at Chorley on a charge of disorderly behaviour. It was stated that prisoner whilst in a public-house drew a long knife from a sheath, and brandishing it said he was "Jack the Ripper," and that he intended to commit further outrages.

At Liverpool, Eleanor Thomas, aged 30, was brought up on charges of theft from shops in the north-end of the city, and also with having attempted suicide in the Westminster-road Bridge, where she endeavoured to strangle herself. She was sentenced to three months' hard labour.

There is reason to doubt the accuracy of a report that the natives of the East Coast of Africa had committed acts of cannibalism on some slaughtered German sailors. The mutilations are supposed to have been performed for the purposes of fetishism.

In commemoration of the birthday of Father Mathew, the Irish temperance reformer, there was a demonstration on Monday at the Irish Exhibition at Olympia, in connection with the Catholic Total Abstinence League of the Cross, of which Cardinal Manning is president.

There were 10,747 emigrants from the German Empire passing through German ports, and Antwerp, Rotterdam, and Amsterdam, in August last, against 8,061 in August, 1887; while from the beginning of the year to the end of August 71,331 persons have emigrated, against 72,608 in the previous year.

Montesquieu Segla, a place near Toulouse, where mineral springs exist, is about to be run by a company as a rival to the Pyrenean and southern health resorts. Scientific authorities have lately, it is said, discovered that the waters of Montesquieu contain the rarest and most valuable therapeutic elements.

The new fast cruiser Australia is the latest addition to the Royal Navy. The vessel is equipped with two 22-ton guns, ten 5-ton guns, sixteen quick-firing guns, and also with machine guns and torpedoes. It is computed that the steamer will attain a speed of more than eighteen knots an hour.

A banquet in Mr. Ritchie's honour was given the other day at Dundee. In reply to the toast of his health, the right hon. gentleman dwelt at some length upon the responsibilities satisfied upon members of Parliament in the conscientious discharge of their duties as representatives of large and important constituencies.

The Brighton race stand trustees have purchased the Tynanter Down, which comprises the racecourse, at a cost of £25,000, and the race stand has been sent a cheque for the purchase money, so that they might have the satisfaction of handing the corporation the valuable property for the benefit and enjoyment of the inhabitants.

Charles Batchelor, a working man, again appeared to a summons at the Highgate Police Court for not sending his son regularly to school. At the last hearing defendant stated that his son came out of school each day at a quarter to twelve o'clock to carry him his dinner. This statement was denied, and evidence was given in refutation of it. The Bench made an attendance order.

According to an abstract published by the Journal de St. Petersburg of the Russian Budget of 1887, the deficit of 6,160,000 roubles has been calculated, without adding to the receipts the balance from 1883, now definitely fixed at 2,994,000 roubles, or the unused balance of 9,897,000 roubles remaining from the winding up of former credit establishments.

William Reichardt, 16, has been remanded at the Hammersmith Police Court, charged with having wounded a boy named Harry Tucker, by shooting him with a revolver. It appeared that the two boys were examining a revolver which Reichardt had purchased, when the weapon went off, and the bullet lodged in Tucker's jaw, inflicting a serious wound.

At the Southwark Police Court, Michael McCarthy was sentenced to two months' hard labour for a violent assault on a woman named Fookah. The prosecutrix was walking with her husband, and she saw the accused knock a woman down and walk away. She went to assist the woman to rise, and the prisoner returned and struck her a violent blow in the face.

Mr. Stanhope had promised to receive a deputation from the Council of the National Rifle Association at the War Office, at the end of the present month. At the Staines site the land is priced at £70 per acre, and the Association requires 1,000 acres; while Lord Winterton has offered the Association 500 acres on the Berkshire Downs site, free of all cost in perpetuity.

Three charges were to be heard at Oxford City Sessions this week against the Rev. Robert Hall Baynes, formerly vicar of Holy Trinity, Folkestone, and St. Michael's, Coventry, and hon. canon of Worcester Cathedral, of obtaining money and board and lodging by false pretences. The accused did not surrender, and his bail was refused.

Mr. Balfour has written a letter dealing with Mr. Morley's rejoinder to his previous letter concerning the Milford Malbay case and the Kilgobbin boycotting conspiracy. Mr. Balfour implies that Mr. Morley's rejoinder in no way overthrows but rather strengthens his (Mr. Balfour's) previous statements, and defends the resident magistrates of Ireland, pointing out that out of 221 appeals from their convictions only fifteen were reversed, a proportion far below the average.

Speaking the other night at Galashiels, Mr. Ashmead Bartlett, M.P., said the power of the National League was broken and all but destroyed. The eviction scene, as now witnessed with all its sensational accompaniments, was a very fine thing for the Land League, which lived upon its political and pecuniary effects, and was a very agreeable thing for the Gladstonians, and tub-thumper, whose sole political pabulum it furnished. There was no such thing as an unjust eviction possible in Ireland now. Such evictions

as took place were the wanton and wicked work of the League and of the Farnell party.

A Ministerial crisis is anticipated in Spain in connection with the proposed army reforms.

The Royal Courts of Justice will be reopened on Wednesday next, the first day of the Michaelmas sittings.

Mr. M. Paddy, of Gweedore, has been released from Derry Gaol, having completed six months' imprisonment all but two days.

The number of paupers in London, exclusive of inmates in asylums and vagrants, is 92,344, as compared with 91,098 in 1887, 89,147 in 1886, and 83,686 in 1885.

It is reported from Herat that Isak Khan's revolt has entirely collapsed, and that the Amir's authority is now supreme all over Afghanistan-Turkistan.

A prehistoric canoe has been discovered in the tidal river Hamble, near Botley, Hants. It is about 12ft. long by 5ft. wide, beautifully carved, and in a fairly good state of preservation.

At Ohmy's Circus, Holton, one of the performing volours suddenly rushed into the ring, causing great excitement. It was, however, beaten back with clubs, and no damage was done.

The balances in Post Office savings' banks in Suffolk have increased from £23,194 in 1873 to £268,988 in 1887. Forty thousand pounds were added to the credit balance last year.

The Empress Frederick presided at Berlin over a meeting of the committee for the relief of the sufferers by the recent inundations in Germany. The distress is now at an end, and measures have been taken to prevent floods in the future.

An authoritative denial is forthcoming in respect of the report that Professor Bergmann and Dr. Gerhardt intend to prosecute Sir Morell Mackenzie in the English courts on account of certain statements in his book.

Serious inundations have occurred at Pescara, Castellamare del Adriatico, Montesilvano, and Giffa Sant' Angelo, in Italy. Several persons have lost their lives, and enormous damage has been done to property.

A special court, consisting of Judge Wray and two magistrates, has been appointed at Durban to try the Zulu malcontents at Ekowe on November 15th. The accused will be allowed counsel.

Judge Parrell, in opening the Michaelmas Quarter Sessions, at Limerick this week, said he was happy to congratulate the grand jury on the peaceful state of the city. This was the third maiden session in Limerick this year.

The revising barrister for the Ormskirk Division of Lancashire has rejected the claim of Mr. Gladstone to be placed on the list of voters for the division in respect that he was proprietor of the advowson of St. Thomas's, Seaford.

Mr. T. Quinn, M.P., who has been confined to his house at Clapham by an attack of congestion of the lungs, fell on to the fire in his bed-room, burning his neck and right hand so severely that his medical attendants had to be summoned.

Mr. T. H. Vernon, cork manufacturer, has obtained £4,500 damages in an action, tried at Sheffield, arising out of the Hexthorpe collision on the Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire Railway. His injuries necessitated the amputation of a leg.

The defences in Mr. Farnell's action against the Times, in the Court of Session, Edinburgh, were adjourned on Tuesday, and lodged with Lord Kinross's clerk, at the New Register House, Edinburgh. The case will be put out for adjustment next week.

Serious damage has been caused by floods on the coast of the Adriatic. Near Teramo several houses have fallen in, and four persons have been killed. Railway and ordinary communications are interrupted. At Pescara three persons have been drowned.

The deaths registered in London last week numbered 1,538, and exceeded by thirteen the average in the corresponding weeks of the last ten years. The death rate per thousand, which had been 15.8, 16.0, and 16.5 in the three preceding weeks, rose last week to 18.7.

At the Dalton Police Court, Louis Biehoff was fined 20s., and ordered to pay 10s. costs, for having thrown a bottle from the top of a tramcar into the public street. A man who was passing the car at the time received a cut on one of his hands from the broken glass, and a young woman was so frightened that she fainted.

The Commander-in-Chief has given permission for the 19th Hussars, now quartered at Hounslow, to provide the escort for the Lord Mayor on Wednesday, the 25th of November, and also for the procession on the 26th of November, and also for the band of the band of one of the regiments of Household Cavalry, and the mounted band of the Royal Artillery from Aldershot.

A serious explosion of gas occurred in a disused kitchen almost immediately under the first-class refreshment-rooms of the Midland Railway station at London. Two labourers were endeavouring to discover the source of escape of gas in the kitchen, and one of them struck a light, when the explosion occurred. Both men were severely injured.

At the first of a series of winter concerts held in the public hall, Colwyn Bay, North Wales, on Tuesday night, soon after the programme had been commenced, Mrs. Jones, a resident of Merton House, was taken ill. She was removed to an ante-room, and three doctors attended her, but the chairman shortly afterwards announced her death, and the audience dispersed.

A visitor, named Henry Lee Benson, committed suicide at Brighton on Tuesday. He entered a barber's shop, and asked to be allowed to shave himself. The request was complied with, but when the razor was given to him he cut his throat, severing the windpipe. Medical assistance was obtained, but he died in a quarter of an hour. Deceased had been staying at a temperance hotel.

At the Westminster Police Court, Alfred Groves, and his wife, Fanny Groves, have been remanded on the charge of having neglected to provide food and clothing for their four children. The evidence went to show that the children were found huddled together under some old sack in a room in which they had been left without any one to take care of them. There was no food or fire in the room.

Arthur Berry, a publican, was summoned to the Marlborough-street Police Court for having supplied two constables, while they were on duty, with refreshments. Defendant admitted having supplied the officers with beer, but said he did not observe that they wore their armlets to indicate that they were on duty. The two constables stated that they had taken them off before entering the house. Mr. Hannay thought they had acted rather badly. He fined defendant 25s. and costs.

Charles Seller was summoned by the Excise authorities to the Wandsworth Police Court, for being the owner of a refreshment shop without taking out a licence. Defendant is a vendor of fried fish, and was charged with having sold fried fish within the definition of refreshments.

Mr. Powell, for the prosecution, said "refreshment" meant anything in the shape of food. There was nothing in the Act limiting it to liquid refreshments. Mr. Plowden imposed a fine of five shillings. Other and similar cases were disposed of in like manner.

Speaking at a banquet at Haddington, Mr. Balfour expressed his belief that the association of Conservative and Liberal Unionists for a common object would appear to the historian of the future as the most remarkable phase of the Irish controversy. While he regarded party government as a great engine of freedom, the system by which party organisations were employed to prevent party programmes, could not be tolerated. A considerable portion of the Chief Secretary's address was devoted to a justification of his administration of Irish affairs, and he held that the Celtic

element was essential to the well-being of the British empire.

Over a thousand voters have been disfranchised in West Donegal for non-payment of rates.

The iron shipbuilders of Dundee had their wages raised a halfpenny per hour on Thursday.

The Thibetan war is practically at an end, the hostile army being totally disorganised.

Two fishermen named Stephen and Robert Bond, of the Scilly Islands, were drowned on Thursday by the capsizing of a boat.

The Spanish consul-general at Quebec, Count Premat-Réal, accidentally shot himself dead while handling a revolver.

Ten thousand francs is the first prize in an exhibition of horses and donkeys to be held in Paris next year.

Mrs. Frank Leslie declares that an English woman of 40 looks younger than an American of 30.

Her Majesty has purchased a very choice herd of black Galloway heifers for the Shaw Farm at Windsor.

At Nottingham, Richard Edwards, a youth, residing at Lileston, has been sentenced to a month's imprisonment for putting a red-hot coal under a pony's tail to make it go faster.

It is announced from Simla that further operations against the Black Mountain tribes have been suspended pending the arrival of the deputation, which is expected to arrange terms of submission.

The Prince of Wales arrived at the Hotel Bristol, Paris, on Wednesday. His Royal highness is expected to arrive in London to-day (Sunday).

The Croydon magistrates fined William Horsley, a private in the 2nd Volunteer Battalion Royal West Surrey Regiment, 20s., for neglecting to make himself efficient for the year. He admitted the offence.

Mr. James C. Flood, the Californian millionaire, who has had the felicity of reading admirably written memoirs, has rallied a little, but he still has three doctors attending upon him, who visit their patient several times a day.

The total of the French vintage in 1888 is 40,000,000 hectolitres. The most favoured departments are the Hérault, 8,000,000 hectolitres; the Gard, 6,000,000 hectolitres; and the Gironde, 2,600,000 hectolitres.

A Joan of Arc monument, which is to be erected at Rouen, is said to be one of the largest in France, the pedestal covering an area of 140 square yards, and the top of the statue rising thirty yards from the ground.

A succession of earthquakes occurred in Bosnia, between the 7th and 17th of this month. A shock which occurred at the village of Prosjor on the 13th lasted five minutes, and threw the entire neighbourhood into a state of panic.

Two hands engaged on the smack Charlie, sailing from Yarmouth, were drowned while employed in the dangerous task of ferrying fish to a steamer in the North Sea. The smack Ada has put into Yarmouth with the loss of her fifth hand.

According to an Ottawa telegram, the Great Yukon River and the surrounding country, about 600 miles in extent, of



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“I am surrounded with inflammation and swollen, that when I walk, I feel as if I were carrying a great weight on my back, so that if, so under the skin you have poison that defies all the remedies you have tried, which, if not extracted, you never can reach the cure. I have been afflicted with this disease for many years, and am swollen, the joints being ulcerated, the same with my ankles, round which the skin may be discoloured, or depraved, and the feet are so swollen that I cannot have any shoes, and I cannot walk. In such condition numbers have been cured, and in course of a short time have been cured, where I hope had feel after being afflicted from two to twenty-five years.”

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Yours faithfully,  
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## THE WHITEHALL MYSTERY.

Important Discovery—A Leg Found.

A further important discovery was made at Whitehall on Wednesday, on the ground where the trunk of an unknown woman was found a fortnight ago. It had been decided to place the services of a Spitzbergen dog, which was employed at the disposal of the police by Mr. Jasper T. C. Varian. The animal was taken to the site of the new police buildings, and placed in the vault where the former discovery was made. Only a short time elapsed before the dog commenced sniffing suspiciously at a mound of earth, and at the suggestion of our representative, who was present watching the operations, some tools were obtained, and the earth was thrown over. As the work proceeded the dog became more excited, and at length, after a considerable quantity of earth had been dug up, the animal seized upon a strange-looking object, to which adhered a quantity of damp soil. An examination of this was made by the light of a candle, and the object was found to be a portion of a human leg that had been severed at the knee joint. Dr. Bond, the divisional surgeon, was immediately summoned, and pronounced the remains to be those of a finely developed woman. It was the left leg found, and had been severed at the knee, and what was at first supposed to be a locking, or part of some covering, was in reality the skin, which was found to be peeling off the flesh. The leg was much decomposed, and, in Dr. Bond's opinion, had been deposited at least six weeks ago. The workmen who stated when the trunk was found that it was not there on the Friday previous to its discovery are probably in error, as the bloodstains on the wall had thoroughly soaked in, and gave evidence of its having been there for some time. The leg was found about four inches beneath the loose earth, on the top of which was a quantity of brick and stones. Dr. Bond having concluded his inspection, orders were given for the removal of the remains to the mortuary. Sergeant Rose, in the presence of Inspector Peters, who had several constables with him guarding the premises, carefully wrapped the remains up in a brown paper parcel, which was sealed and taken by him in a cab to the mortuary. The search was resumed late at night. A bloodhound, one of those which had been used in the Hyde Park experiment, was brought from King-street Police Station, and a staff of constables, with Inspectors Peters and Marshall, were engaged for an hour and a half in turning over the ground, but the work being suspended no new discovery had been made. The search was not continued on Thursday, except so far as concerned the pumping out of the well on the premises, which has not been attended with any important results.

**Examination of the Limb.**  
Dr. Bond, divisional surgeon of the A. Division, made a careful examination at Millbank-street on Thursday of the portion of the leg found the previous day, and on comparing it with the trunk already in the mortuary, he is of opinion that it belongs to the same body. It is of opinion, in a better state of preservation, and this is accounted for by the fact that it had been sufficiently covered with earth to exclude the air, whereas the trunk was only wrapped up in a skirt. Dr. Bond is also of opinion that both portions of the body had been lying where found for over six weeks, notwithstanding the statements made by people at the works that they were not there on the Friday or Saturday previous to their discovery, and the fact of the leg being in such good preservation is one point in his argument for holding this opinion.

The police were on Friday engaged in excavating the ground in the basement of the new buildings at Whitehall, where the recent discoveries of human remains have been made, and to assist them in finding if possible any of the missing parts of the body, have employed a bloodhound. Their search was, however, fruitless. Sir Charles Warren inspected the premises on Friday.

## COACHING LADIES FOR THE STAGE.

In the Westminster County Court, on Thursday, a theatrical action of considerable public interest was tried by his honour Judge Bayley and a jury. The plaintiff, Mr. Warburton, sued the defendant, Mrs. John Ward, a theatrical agent, late of Catherine-street, Strand, and now of Henrietta-street, for the sum of £25, paid under an agreement by which he undertook to introduce the plaintiff to a West-end theatre. Mr. Bonner, barrister, appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Nichols, solicitor, for the defendant. Mr. Bonner, in opening the case, said in November last plaintiff's wife was anxious to go upon the stage, and in the papers she saw Mr. Ward's advertisement, in which he offered to coach people for the stage. Mrs. Warburton put herself in communication with him, and ultimately came to terms. These were that she was to receive tuition for which she was to pay £55. She paid the money, and was then transferred to the defendant's brother, Charles Ward, who gave her numerous lessons. This went on till March, when she paid the defendant the sum of £25 under an agreement, by which he undertook to introduce her to a West-end theatre. There was to be a matinee, and she was to take the part of Portia in "The Merchant of Venice." In June, as he had not fulfilled his promise, the plaintiff wrote to him complaining of the delay, and he replied that the lady was now perfect, and he hoped to settle the date of the matinee by the 29th. He, however, failed to fulfil his contract. For the defence, Mr. Nichols said his client was always willing, and was so still, to introduce Mrs. Warburton, who was to have been introduced to the stage as Mrs. Vere Stanhope. In the agreement, which he now produced, the defendant undertook to introduce her at a matinee "when proficient." She had the opportunity of appearing at St. George's Hall as Mrs. Conyers, in "Within the Veil," but she refused. Mrs. Warburton said that was true, but she had only twenty-four hours given her to study her part, and the defendant had undertaken that she should appear at a theatre as Portia. With regard to the contract now produced, she would swear that the words "when proficient" were not there when she signed it. The defendant, in his evidence, swore the words were there. The jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff for the amount claimed, with full costs.

## COMMERCIAL EDUCATION.

Professor Gault, successor of the late Mr. Leone Levi as professor of commercial law at King's College, Strand, delivered his opening lecture on Thursday evening on the subject of commercial education. In England, he said, commercial education was still in an embryo condition, for when a youth left school to follow the pursuits of life he found that he had to grub along as best he could. It was all-important that our system should be improved, if for no other reason because of the keen competition which was going on between Englishmen and foreigners for commercial posts in this country. In consequence of his imperfect training the Englishman was generally outbid by the foreigner, especially by the German. That was the case abroad as well as at home, inasmuch as in Spain and Italy there were thirty German travellers to one English. The Germans were thus getting a monopoly of the import trade in those countries—indeed, a large English house had been compelled to sacrifice a lucrative business it might have done in Italy simply because it could not get an Englishman competent enough to conduct the correspondence in Italian. In Germany and Austria commercial education had been reduced practically to an exact science. King's College had been accomplishing a useful work for many years at the evening classes, but before long it was hoped that an elaborate system of commercial education would be carried on both at the day and evening classes. Such education should follow general education, and should not be a substitute for it, and it should be imparted by commercial men. Germany had had a fifty years' start; but so much was being done by our schools and universities that he thought the Associated Chambers of Commerce would do well if they endowed lectureships for the purposes of commercial education.

## LORD HARTINGTON AT BELFAST.

The Marquis of Hartington arrived in Belfast on Thursday by the steamer from Barrow. He was met at the Donegal Quay by Sir Edward Porter Cowan (whose guest he is during his stay) and other prominent Unionists. After a formal greeting, the noble lord left with his host by special train for Craigavon, where the company assembled to meet him. At night Lord Hartington was entertained at a banquet in the Ulster Hall. There was a large and enthusiastic assemblage. Sir E. P. Cowan, who presided, proposed his health, in a speech in which he referred to the political changes which have taken place during the past three years, and to the consistent course which has always been pursued by the guest of that evening. Lord Hartington, in reply, claimed credit that the part which he took in the autumn of 1885, before Mr. Gladstone's change of policy, had done something to encourage other members of the party to fairly and openly state their position. Wherever everything was changed by the great surrender which had been made, the Unionists had a right to reconsider their position. But he denied that the Unionists had changed their policy; the Liberals of Ulster, whilst opposed to establishing a separate Government in Dublin, believed that the measures which they advocated a few years ago were necessary for Ireland. He considered that there was as much need now as three years ago for the Liberal Unionists to work shoulder to shoulder with the Conservatives in defence of all they held most dear. Lord Hartington on Friday attended a reception in the Reform Club, at Belfast, and in the evening addressed a great meeting in the Ulster Hall. Replying to an address, he said it was well for English and Scotch members to come there to see that the loyalty of Ulster was a sentiment and a feeling which statesmen could not, without criminal neglect, affect to ignore or despise. He thought they might estimate the character of the future Gladstonian policy by the manner in which they boasted that something approaching civil war prevailed in certain parts of Ireland. He quoted the speech of Mr. Dillon and others to show that national independence was the aim of the present struggle, and said the minority could not be adequately protected by any system of an Irish Parliament. Instead of waiting for a far-reaching land measure, he recommended the extension of Lord Ashbourne's Act. The present issue left no room for compromise; it had become a struggle of honesty against dishonesty, of order against disorder, of truth against falsehood, of loyalty against treason; and as to the result he did not despair.

## MR. BALFOUR AT MANCHESTER.

Mr. Balfour was on Friday entertained at luncheon at the Manchester Carlton Club. Referring to the toast of his health, he said that Mr. Gladstone's statement that Ireland blocked the way of legislation had been falsified by the work accomplished in the past session. Having dwelt upon the magnitude of Mr. Goschen's conversion scheme, and Mr. Ritchie's local government measure, he regretted that the licensing clauses had to be withdrawn from the latter, but said the stream was running steadily in favour of temperance, and it was only bigoted counsels that could produce a reaction. Whilst the question of compensation to the publicans had for the time passed out of the sphere of practical politics, he did not believe Sir W. Harcourt would induce an English House of Commons to refuse to the publicans their equitable claim for compensation whilst he gave it to the agricultural tenants in Ireland.

## SIR M. HICKS-BEACH ON THE USE OF CLUBS.

Sir M. Hicks-Beach, having opened a new Constitutional Club at Newton Abbot on Friday, recorded, at a subsequent luncheon, to the toast of her Majesty's Ministers. After paying a high eulogy to Mr. W. H. Smith, who had laid the first stone of the club, Sir Michael urged that the institution should be made the means of upholding the principles which its members believed, and converting others to those opinions. Having shown what were the purpose and duty of the club, he said that he believed that that party, with the aid of the Liberal Unionists, would defeat the machinations of the Opposition.

## A LADY SWINDLER IN THE STRAND.

An impudent robbery has just been committed at a well-known hotel in the Strand. More than a week ago a lady arrived at the hotel, engaged apartments, and represented herself to be travelling for pleasure, having just come from the country. She was handsomely attired, agreeable in manner, and lived in the best style, luncheon and dining regularly at the hotel, and partaking of the very best of the viands. She glittered with jewels, and among the servants in the house she was much speculated as to who the distinguished lady was. One morning, to the surprise and consternation of the manager, the lady was found to have disappeared. Not content with leaving without paying her bill, she had entered several of the bedrooms in the hotel, and stolen articles belonging to the visitors and servants. Even a housemaid's dress had not been despised, for it had been carried away by the flaunting beauty. Detectives are inquiring into the case, but up to the present no arrest has been made.

## THE SHOCKING MURDER OF A MOTHER.

George Mountain was on Thursday brought before the Sherburn magistrates, charged with the wilful murder of his mother, Catherine Mountain, at Sherburn, on the 14th inst. The only evidence beyond that which was given before the coroner at the inquest was that of Annie Hutchinson, the servant, who said that she had frequently heard prisoner use threats of violence towards his mother when in drink, when he always said she was not his mother. He told witness during the night of the murder that she was not Annie, and deceased was too old to be his mother. The prisoner was committed to take his trial at the next Assizes.

## VERY BAD BEGINNINGS.

At the Surrey Sessions, Henry Old, 13, and Charles Bennett, 14, who, at the last sessions, pleaded guilty to breaking and entering the church of St. Mary Magdalene, and stealing money from the collection boxes, and also to having been previously convicted of a similar offence, were brought up to be dealt with. The facts connected with the boys' career were that they had been guilty of office breaking and petty larceny. Old had been sentenced at the Richmond Petty Sessions to four years' detention in a reformatory in February last, but owing to his having a work constitution he was refused admission to various reformatories to which he had been sent. The learned chairman on the last occasion took the opportunity to comment strongly on the managers of reformatory institutions having the power to override the decision of the magistrates as to the reception of children sent to them merely because they were not quite so robust as those in charge of them might desire, so as to do good work and show results of a satisfactory character to the prison, and he adjourned the case until Wednesday. Sir William Harman now said that he was pleased that in the interval since last sessions he had found a reformatory school for the reception of them. It was said to see children like those before him with such a record of crime. He formally sentenced them to a month's imprisonment and five years' detention in a reformatory.

Police-constable Dean, 20 M, was found drowned in the Surrey Canal, near the Lock Horse Bridge, on Thursday. It is supposed that while patrolling his beat the deceased fell into the water through the density of the fog.

## CABMEN'S STRIKE IN LONDON.

The Men's Statement.

The strike at Mr. Edwin Palmer's cabyard at Newington Causeway, which commenced on Monday, still continues, and there is apparently little inclination on the part of either party to withdraw their demand. "Is your society still supporting them?" asked a reporter of the secretary of the Cabdrivers' Mutual Aid and Protection Society. "Supporting them?" exclaimed he; "of course we are. We know them to be a body of respectable and steady fellows, some of whom have had licences for between twenty and forty years. The whole of the cabdrivers in London are, as a body, in strong sympathy with them. Why, in consequence of the manner in which the drivers are supporting the men it is not at present considered necessary to make a levy on the members of the society." But the object of the interview which the secretary sought was to give a correct view of the men's position. Every effort had been made by the society on behalf of the men to settle the dispute amicably, but it had failed—and that through the action of Mr. Palmer. The drivers' contention, he said, was that their offer of 11s. a day, inclusive, was not only a fair price, but a first-rate price, considering the character of the article supplied. And here the official strongly characterized Mr. Palmer's assertion that a man who takes a horse and cab has under his care £100 worth of property. Originally the men had no other object in their action than the reduction of the price. But Mr. Palmer surmised that one driver was an inspirer in the agitation. This was a misapprehension. It was a unanimous complaint. The men had found it impossible to pay the price. They had been compelled to work even sixteen, seventeen, and eighteen hours to meet his demand and get a living. However, the men were discharged. The drivers then requested his reinstatement, and the refusal of their request certainly strengthened them in their resolve not to bear the grievance they had complained of.

## EXTENSIVE ROBBERIES ON THE BRIGHTON LINE.

At the Lambeth Police Court on Friday, Joseph Brown, 35, and Ann Brown, 41, his wife, were charged with being concerned in stealing and receiving a large quantity of property belonging to the London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway Company while in transit from different places. From the opening statement, it appeared that the male prisoner had up to some three months back been in the service of the company as a wagon and goods truck examiner, or what was more commonly known as a man who went round the train and tapped. He was employed at Newroad Junction, hunted until the time for leaving their various destinations. For some time past the goods in the trucks had been tampered with and property taken away, for which the company had been called upon to pay compensation. Efforts were made to find out the offenders, and over three months back the male prisoner was detected with property in his possession which had been stolen from one of the trucks at the station. He was charged, and sentenced at Croydon to three months' hard labour. When he was again arrested, the female prisoner came up, and she told she would also be charged, when she said her husband had brought home the things, and she did not know they were stolen. This officer afterwards went to a house in Shard-road, Peckham, where the prisoners had lived. There he found ninety-six pawn tickets, chiefly relating to stolen property, as well as a number of files and leather straps, stamped with the initials of the company, and a small "jenny" which would force open cases and a large bunch of keys, including many of the "skeleton" pattern. The prisoners were further remanded.

## RECOVERY OF STOLEN BONDS.

In April last considerable excitement prevailed in commercial circles in the City when it became known that a parcel of bonds of the face value of \$50,000 had been stolen, as was supposed, at the time, while in transit from Buenos Ayres to this country. The bonds stolen were those known as Series "B" Cédulas of the Banco Hipotecario Nacional. They were consigned to the firm of Messrs. William Brandt, Sons, and Co., of 4, Fenchurch Avenue, but never reached them. A reward of £200 was offered for their recovery, but without avail, and they were looked upon as lost. A few days ago Messrs. Brandt and Co. were astonished to receive by post a bulky parcel, bearing the postmark of Genoa, Italy, which contained \$25,000 worth of the missing bonds, and also a letter from a clerk who was formerly in the employ of the firm at Buenos Ayres by whom the bonds were sent to Messrs. Brandt. He wrote that he had bitterly regretted having stolen the bonds, and that he felt the only thing he could do to atone for his fault was to restore the balance of the values, viz., \$25,000. Shortly after this Messrs. Brandt received a communication from a banker at Paris to the effect that bonds to the value of \$50,000 had been left with them for examination, a young man having called and wished to dispose of them. He did not return, and it was found that they were a portion of the bonds stolen in transit to Messrs. Brandt. These securities are now held by the Paris banker at Messrs. Brandt's disposal, and they have thus recovered \$25,000 out of the \$50,000. The means by which the robbery was effected have also now come to light. It appears that the bonds, to the value of \$50,000, were made up in a large letter, and given to the clerk in question to take to the post office at Buenos Ayres, in order that they might be registered. The clerk made up a dummy letter, which he took with him and had registered, but retained the original package. The robbery could not be detected until the package arrived in England, and this consequently gave the thief time to get clear off. The clerk left the firm's employ a few days afterwards, and on turning out his desk other bonds to the value of \$10,000 were discovered. This, of course, roused the suspicions of the firm, but they were unable to trace the man, who had left the country, and the securities were looked upon as lost. Nothing was heard of him until, as stated above, Messrs. Brandt received the \$25,000.

## TRAGIC AFFAIR AT PESTH.

In the Franzbad quarter at Pesth, a wealthy old lady, Wilhelmine Albertine Sander, was found in her night-dress, on the floor of her bedroom, with deep gashes, apparently inflicted by a hatchet, in the head and body. She was taken to the hospital in a dying state. The culprit is still at large. The robbery was probably the motive of the crime, as she was known to keep large sums of money concealed in her bedding and in other articles of furniture.

## CURIOUS PAVNBROKING CASE.

The Birmingham magistrates were on Thursday called upon to adjudicate in a curious case. A London lady, staying in Wales, was some time since robbed of a diamond necklace of the value of £150. She recently received an anonymous letter, the writer of which said that, being in need, she took the necklace, but without fraudulent intention; that she was now on the point of sailing for a far country; and that the necklace had been pawned for £35 with Mr. Woods, of Birmingham. Mr. Woods did not deny having received the necklace from a lady who seemed the likely owner of such a jewel, but he submitted that he was not called upon to give it up to the pret. claimant, because it was not received as a pledge, but under a special contract which the law did not affect. Eventually he gave up the necklace for £10.

## HOUSING OF THE POOR.

Home Office Inquiry.

The commission appointed by the Home Secretary to inquire into the sanitary condition of Rotherhithe commenced its sittings on Friday in the board-room of the workhouse, Lower-road, Rotherhithe. The inquiry was instigated by the Mansion House Council on the Dwellings of the People, who send inspectors about London, and of any discovering the insanitary condition of any locality apply to the Local Government Board to move the Home Secretary to appoint a commission. The present commission consists of Mr. Cubitt (chairman), Mr. Nicholls, Mr. Shirley, and Mr. Murphy. The Mansion House Council were represented by Mr. Reader Harris and Dr. Parkes, medical adviser to the Mansion House Council. Mr. Harris said the contention of the council with regard to the parish was that generally it was in an insanitary condition. The council examined some 1,000 houses in September and October last year, again examined them in March of the present year, and subsequently made a further examination. With regard to 711 houses, 59 of the yards adjoining them were badly paved or unpaved in March, and 74 in September last. There were 32 untrapped or defective yard gullies in March, and 22 in September. In March there were 181 cases in which no water supply was provided for sanitary purposes, the number in September being 400. In the former month there were 201 cases in which no dustbins were provided, and 93 in September. 21 defective dustbins in March, and 51 in September. In one case it was found that as many as 15 houses used one water cistern. That state of things did not, however, exist now. He then instanced other defects, and maintained that the parish was in an insanitary condition, which the vestry had power, under the existing laws, to remedy; that they had not only the power, but that the obligation was imposed upon them to enforce it; and that there was a practical absence of provision for enforcing it. There was, he stated, only one medical officer of health, who gave but a portion of his time to inspection, being apparently a busy man. There was one sanitary inspector, whose time was not wholly given to inspection. In 1881 there were 4,847 houses in Rotherhithe, with a population of 38,000, so that it was impossible for one man to undertake all the duties that were required of him. Mr. J. Stokes, vestry clerk, admitted that in the old parts of the parish the vestry never insisted upon the water supply being put on for sanitary purposes. They had, however, insisted upon the water supply being provided for the houses, but not for flushing, the vestry being of opinion that the pail system was more efficient for poor houses. Mr. Harris pointed out that the death-rate had increased in 1886-7, according to the report of their own medical officer, from 17.9 to 23, or something like 6 per cent. Mr. Bulmer, on behalf of the vestry, reminded the commission that since 1863 the vestry had spent £48,000 in paving and other improvements, and £25,000 for the present public baths and wash-houses. Dr. Cooper thought it was unfair to take the death-rate as given, because the number of inhabitants was continually increasing. Mr. Harris: You have killed a good many more, Mr. Dr. Cooper: Because we have more to kill. The inquiry was adjourned until Friday next.

## A BEGGAR'S SCRIPTURAL QUOTATIONS.

Robert Shortcliffe Barmingham, a clerk, aged 40, with no home, was charged on Thursday, at the Marylebone Police Court, with begging in Kilburn. George Griggs, a corn merchant, of Offingham-terrace, Kilburn, said he saw the prisoner in Canterbury-road on Wednesday evening, when he was begging to preach to them. He came across the road to witness, and asked for a penny, and he gave him one. The prisoner said he was going to the vicar of the parish. Later on he saw the prisoner again, when he said he had got 1s. out of the curate and 6d. from the vicar. Witness followed him until he met a police-sergeant, and he gave him into custody. The prisoner had pretended to preach, and had glibly quoted Scripture in a most foolish manner. The prisoner: About my being "daff," it is not better to tell children the truth and teach them morals than to tell about lying things. Prisoner: Very good things come out of very foolish things (laughter). Witness: You quoted Scripture which had no remote bearing on the conversation we had. The prisoner: Did I not ask you for a penny to buy a postage stamp to put on a letter? Come, now, speak the truth. It's small; but "He that is faithful in small things is faithful also in that which is much." The witness: You had a letter addressed to yourself with a stamp on it. My wife gave you a stamp, which you asked her for, and you put it on the wrong side. The prisoner: I know you are a knave, but he had not been able to see the gentleman he had called on. The prisoner: You're an expert gentleman. If you're a proper officer with a real command, why did you not tell me the charge boldly when you arrested me at Lockhart's, and not call me outside and then tell me? I deny begging, but I admit putting a postage stamp on the envelope. A certain man was fed with the crumbs which fell from a rich man's table. If a man can't get work, it's better to beg than to be a thief. Mr. Harris: You are right there, and the prisoner is different. I shall remind you of the inquiry and we may then know more about the state of your mind. The prisoner: The state of my mind, eh? What about Dr. Forbes Winslow?

## A PUBLICAN CHARGED WITH RECEIVING.

Samuel Knight Morecroft, 53, proprietor of the Corner Pin beer-house, Bath-street, London-road, was brought up on remand at Southwark Police Court, accused of receiving a quantity of stolen property, the proceeds of a burglary committed in Bermondsey in February. At the former examination evidence was given showing that the prisoner had purchased the stolen goods from two men named Ryan and Lang and another known as "Jack Sheppard," all of whom are at present undergoing imprisonment for burglary. Mr. Angus Lewis prosecuted on behalf of the Treasury; Mr. F. H. Sydney defended. Ryan and Lang were brought up on a writ of habeas corpus, and were placed in the dock charged with being concerned in the burglary. "Jack Sheppard" appeared in the witness-box. In answer to Mr. Lewis, he stated that he made the acquaintance of Ryan and Lang at the Corner Pin in February, and in their company effected an entrance into the house of Mrs. Barclay of Trankton-road, Bermondsey, and stole property worth about £50. One of the articles taken was a silver-mounted flute, which was pawned in St. George's Circus by Ryan. A clock and two pictures were sold to Morecroft for 15s., and the three men divided the proceeds equally between them. It was stated there would be a further charge against Morecroft of receiving property connected with other burglaries, and the prisoners were remanded, Morecroft being again released on bail.

## DYING ON A DOORSTEP.

A man, poorly clad, was seen lying on a doorstep in St. John-street-road early on Thursday morning. He had apparently been there all night, and appeared to be very ill. After some time had elapsed the attention of a constable was called to the man's condition, and it was then decided to take him to St. Bartholomew's Hospital. He was accordingly assisted into a cab, but when the porter at the hospital had carried him into the surgery, it was found that he was dead. It is stated that the unfortunate man died of starvation and exposure.

Samuel Briddon, Samuel Ellis, and Henry Longton were sentenced to six months' hard labour at Derby for unlawfully putting a large quantity of lime or other noxious material into certain water belonging to the Duke of Devonshire, with the intent of destroying the fish therein, at Newbold on September 6th.

## A PETROLEUM SHIP BLOWN UP.

Loss of Life and Great Damage.

About nine o'clock on Tuesday night, Calais Harbour was the scene of an explosion of a dangerous nature, which took place on the s.s. Ville de Calais, lying in the dock between the railway station and the adjoining village of Baraque. The vessel, which had been built at Newcastle-on-Tyne about twelve months ago, was of 1,221 tons register, and was engaged specially in the petroleum trade between Calais and New York. For that purpose she was fitted with tanks and tubes for storing the oil. On Tuesday she completed the discharge of her cargo, and was to have left next morning for Newcastle for the purpose of having some improvements made in her machinery. At the time of the explosion water was being pumped into the ballast tanks. The hatches were all fastened down, so that gas must have generated in the petroleum cells, and it is supposed that the accumulated force was exploded by a naked light, carried by one of the engineers, coming in contact with it. The report of the explosion was terrific, and it is said to have been felt for five or six miles round. In Calais itself considerable excitement prevailed. For the moment the people scarcely realized what had occurred. They congregated in the streets, and finally made their way towards the docks. Responding to the tocsin, sounded from the church bells, the soldiers and pompiers promptly turned out, the former marching down to the quays with fixed bayonets to keep back the crowds. Evidences of the explosion are visible more or less in every part of Calais, in the shape of windows smashed. Railway carriages which were standing in the railway station and in the sidings presented a very strange and dilapidated appearance, not a pane of glass having survived the shock.

## The Vibration Caused by the Explosion

was felt very much at St. Pierre, near Calais. The crew of the Ville de Calais numbered altogether twenty-six hands, but at the time of the explosion only about ten persons were on board. The master, with his wife and another lady, were in their cabin in the after part of the steamer, which, by a curious freak of the explosion, remains almost intact. The captain states that he did not imagine anything so serious had happened. The rest of the ship, with the exception of a small part of the forecastle, was blown into the air and scattered in all directions. The sides of the vessel were forced clear away. Large masses of machinery were hoisted up in a remarkable manner. A piece of iron plating fell through the roof of a house at Baraque, and huge fragments were thrown to almost incredible distances. Iron plates appear in some cases to have been split up, and were strewn about the quays and immediate neighbourhood. On Wednesday the scene of the disaster was visited by many thousands of persons. Some were walking about a mile from the dock and a remarkable escape. A large piece of the iron fell near him and seriously injured his leg. At houses half a mile from the dock the shock and displacement of the air was so great that the people were thrown down in their rooms, windows fell in, and curtains stood out as if there had been a rush of air. Two steam vessels, one a tug, lying on the other side of the dock, sustained damage, having been struck with pieces of the iron. At present it is thought four persons only have been killed. What are supposed to be the

## Fragments of the Remains

of the first engineer, one of the ship's officers, and a seaman, have been recovered, and have been removed to the Morgue to await an inquest. The scene of the disaster was inspected on Wednesday by the prefect of police at Boulogne and other officials. The flames which rushed from the hull and played upon the water, were not extinguished until early on Wednesday morning, and created great alarm, the dock being full of shipping, most of the quays were crowded with timber. It is feared that as soon as the wreckage can be examined other parts of human remains will be found. A boy had a very narrow escape. He was in the forecastle when the explosion occurred, but managed to extricate himself by jumping into the water. In addition to those whose remains have been found, one man has been taken to the hospital, where one of his legs has been amputated.

## RELEASE OF CRIMES ACT PRISONERS.

The Milltown Malbay prisoners were unexpectedly released from the county gaol on Wednesday morning, two days before the expiration of their terms of six months to which they were sentenced under the Crimes Act for refusing to supply the police. The other publicans in the town, who at first had also refused supplies, at the licensing sessions had their licences stopped, and with few exceptions all agreed to sign an undertaking guaranteeing to supply provisions if asked.

## MONEY MARKET.

Business on the Stock Exchange to day is quiet, but the market for Foreign Government Securities is firm on good advices from the Continent. Home Railways are inactive, and Americans continue weak. Canadians are stronger, and Mexicans are also better. Mines have improved. The Funds are very firm. Consols (money) being quoted at 100 1/4; New Two-and-Three-Quarters, 97 1/4; New and Reduced Three, 99 1/4; and New Two-and-a-Half, 94 1/4.

FOREIGN STOCKS.	
Argentine, 1880, 95 1/2	Paraguay Bonds, 1880, 95 1/2
Chilean, 1880, 95 1/2	Peruvian, 1880, 95 1/2
Costa Rica, 1880, 95 1/2	Portuguese 3 per cent, 1880, 95 1/2
Deutsche Reichsbank, 1880, 95 1/2	Spanish 3 per cent, 1880, 95 1/2
Edin. and Glasg., 1880, 95 1/2	Spanish 4 per cent, 1880, 95 1/2
Great Eastern, 1880, 95 1/2	Uruguay, 1880, 95 1/2
Great Western, 1880, 95 1/2	Venezuela, 1880, 95 1/2
Harbour Trust, 1880, 95 1/2	
London and Lanc., 1880, 95 1/2	
London and York, 1880, 95 1/2	

BRITISH RAILWAYS.	
London, Tilbury, & South, 125 1/2	Metropolitan, 75 1/2
London, Tilbury, & South, 125 1/2	Metropolitan, 75 1/2
London, Tilbury, & South, 125 1/2	Metropolitan, 75 1/2
London, Tilbury, & South, 125 1/2	Metropolitan, 75 1/2
London, Tilbury, & South, 125 1/2	Metropolitan, 75 1/2

UNITED STATES RAILWAYS.	
Central Pacific, 35 1/2	Ontario, 15 1/2
Chicago, Mil. & St. Paul, 57 1/2	Rockford & Peoria, 55 1/2
Delaware & Hudson, 11 1/2	St. Louis & San Francisco, 55 1/2
Illinois Central, 119 1/2	Union Pacific, 55 1/2
Louisville & Nashville, 61 1/2	Washington, 55 1/2
Missouri & Texas, 12 1/2	Western Union, 55 1/2
New York Central, 110 1/2	

OTHER AMERICAN RAILWAYS.	
Canadian Pacific, 55 1/2	Gr. Trunk, 55 1/2
Grand Trunk, 110 1/2	St. Lawrence, 55 1/2
Intercolonial, 55 1/2	St. Lawrence, 55 1/2
Montreal, 55 1/2	St. Lawrence, 55 1/2
Quebec, 55 1/2	St. Lawrence, 55 1/2

MINE.	
Cape Copper, 65 1/2	De Beers, 15 1/2
De Beers, 15 1/2	De Beers, 15 1/2
De Beers, 15 1/2	De Beers, 15 1/2
De Beers, 15 1/2	De Beers, 15 1/2
De Beers, 15 1/2	De Beers, 15 1/2

MISCELLANEOUS.	
Alpena, 15 1/2	Alpena, 15 1/2
Alpena, 15 1/2	Alpena, 15 1/2
Alpena, 15 1/2	Alpena, 15 1/2
Alpena, 15 1/2	Alpena, 15 1/2
Alpena, 15 1/2	Alpena, 15 1/2

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